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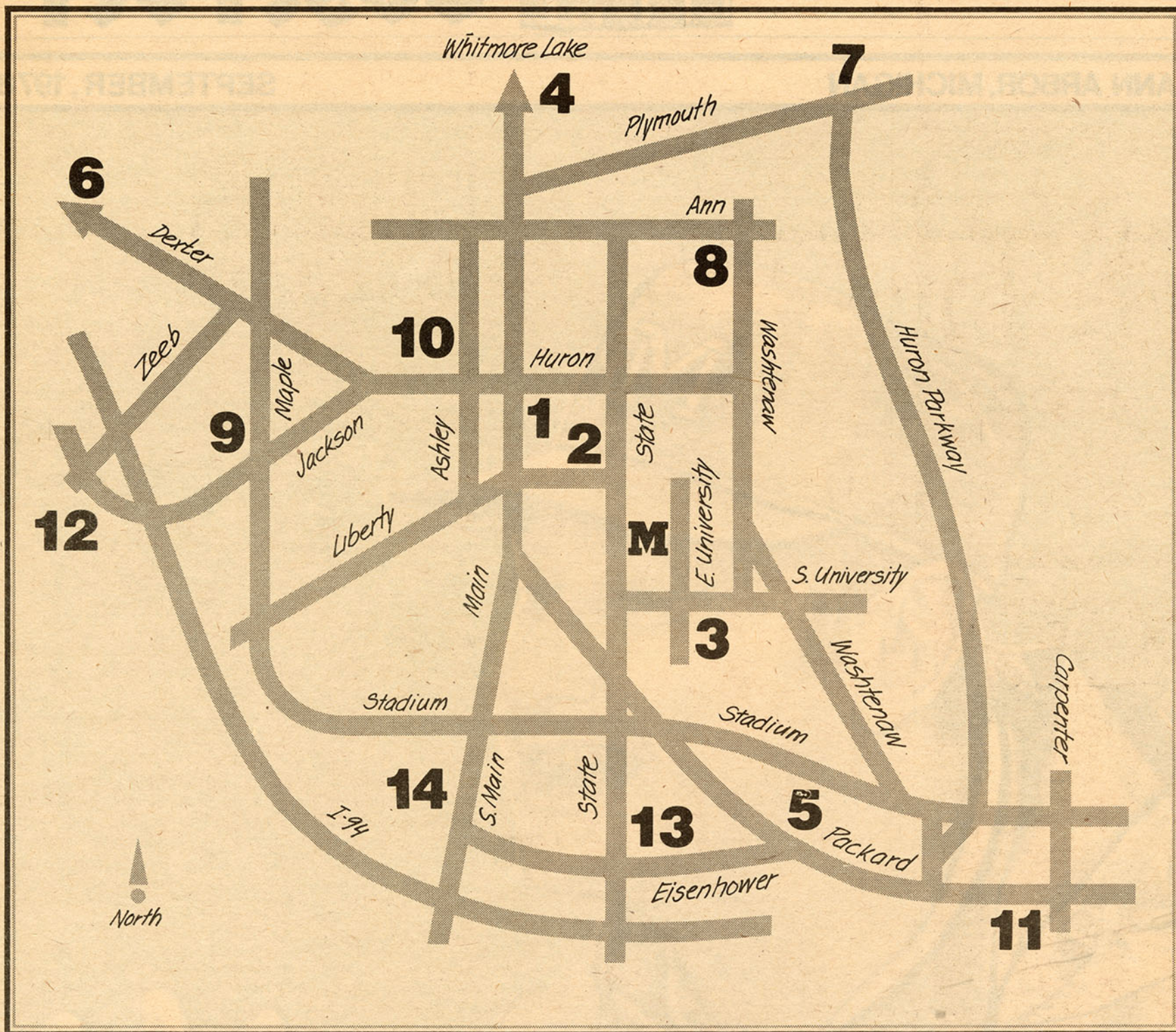
Observer

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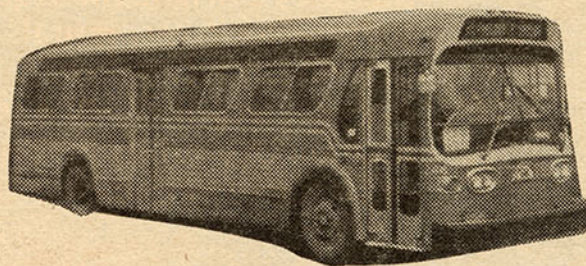
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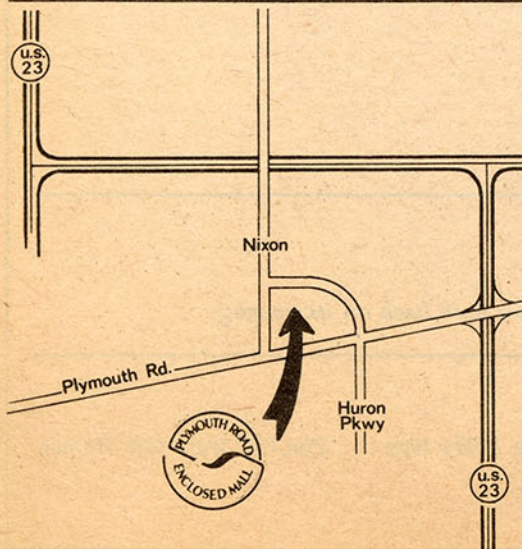
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AATA In Turmoil

Ann Arbor's bus system now has new leadership, and some think service is going to suffer as a result.

THE Ann Arbor Transportation Authority is governed by a seven member board of Ann Arbor citizens who are appointed by the mayor and approved by City Council. Recent appointees to the board have taken a much more questioning, experimental attitude about how Ann Arbor can best be served by its bus service. Those who question the status quo now form a majority on the AATA board.

A concrete effect of the new AATA board leadership has been to begin the process of dismantling the regular daily Dial-a-Ride service (except to the elderly and handicapped). Such a decision is hardly minor, for the promise of Dial-a-Ride was the chief reason why back in 1973 Ann Arbor citizens voted a hefty 2.5 mills annually for public transportation. Since that time, millions of dollars have been spent in implementing a public transportation system that is one of the most luxurious in the country. There are few other cities which permit you to call for a bus to come to your door night or day, weekends included. More than 61% of the Ann Arbor voters apparently concluded that though it carried a stiff price tag, Dial-a-Ride was worth the price.

At the time the Dial-a-Ride system began to be implemented, Ann Arbor had a small, conventional line-bus system with less than a half million dollar budget. In just five years, from 1973 to 1978, the system would grow to ten times that size.

The person brought in to direct the demanding task of introducing and running the Dial-a-Ride system was Karl Guenther, a Ford engineer who had been in charge of Ford's Dial-a-Ride feasibility project. One aspect of this project was a one-year pilot study of Dial-a-Ride in Ann Arbor's southwestern sector. It was toward the end of that pilot project that a group of Ann Arborites got together to form a campaign to pass the 2.5 millage.

Guenther's strong commitment to Dial-a-Ride and his determination to make it work is undoubtedly one reason that in just three years, the complicated system was almost totally in place. But Guenther's determination also proved a significant liability when over the years AATA's board changed in composition from one unanimously pro-Dial-a-Ride to a board largely suspicious of the expensive system. To the Dial-a-Ride skeptics, Guenther came to be seen as having a vested interest in retaining Dial-a-Ride.

Last month Guenther was forced to resign. His resignation was a direct result of the board's doubt that Guenther would really get behind the implementation of a line system to replace the Dial-a-Ride system he had labored five years to perfect.

The debate over whether Ann Arbor ought to provide Dial-a-Ride service to all of its citizens or whether to change back to a simpler line-bus system is far more complex than most people realize. For example, two major reasons given for

changing back to a line system are the relative costs and the relative reliabilities of the two systems. But it is simplistic to conclude that a line system is necessarily cheaper or more reliable than a Dial-a-Ride system, for the chief variable that determines the cost and the reliability of a bus system is the number of hours a year buses are on the road providing service. One could easily imagine a fixed line route system that is more expensive than a Dial-a-Ride system simply because it runs more buses more often.

Still, there is no question that the Dial-a-Ride system Ann Arbor employs is costly compared to almost all other bus systems in the country. Most city bus systems are designed primarily to get people to work and back. They are conventional line systems with high ridership during the peak morning and late afternoon periods. Service during off-peak hours is much more limited.

Ann Arbor's Dial-a-Ride system, by contrast, is designed to provide good door-to-door bus service day and night, weekends included—a much more expensive and less efficient (in terms of cost per bus rider) proposition. Thus, while a system like Madison, Wisconsin's costs about the same as Ann Arbor's, it carries eleven million passengers a year, compared with Ann Arbor's little more than two million.

Comparisons such as the ridership differences between Ann Arbor and Madison

make a lot of people conclude Ann Arbor's Dial-a-Ride system isn't doing the job: it costs a lot, yet it doesn't carry that many riders. But for several reasons this, too, may be a simplistic conclusion. Ann Arbor is a small city with relatively affluent car-owning citizens. The University of Michigan has its own bus system to carry students among the various campuses. Compared to a Lansing or a Madison, not that many Ann Arborites work downtown—a natural market for a bus system. It is not at all clear how many riders any system would attract in this city. Some think a purely line system would attract more riders than the present Dial-a-Ride system. That's a possibility, but there is little evidence to support such a prediction.

Ever since Dial-a-Ride began to be installed in Ann Arbor five years ago, there have been critics who thought it has not lived up to its promise—that given a chance, Ann Arbor voters would gladly overturn the large 2.5 millage passed in 1973. Enough doubts about the system were raised that a year ago, \$80,000 was allocated by the AATA board to have the U-M's Institute for Social Research, one of the largest and best-known survey research outfits in the world, to perform an extensive survey of the attitudes of Ann Arbor citizens about their bus system. Over one thousand Ann Arbor adults, selected as a cross-section of the Ann Arbor population, were given an hour-long oral

On the way out: Karl Guenther, the man who brought Dial-a-Ride to Ann Arbor.



Regular Dial-a-Ride service: On the way out?



questionnaire. Although some Dial-a-Ride critics now attempt to discredit the massive study, it is the best tap on the sentiments of the community about their public transit system this city is ever likely to get.

The results of the survey surprised even those who have supported Dial-a-Ride. Far from finding a large percentage of citizens disgruntled over a wasteful bus system, almost 80% of those surveyed consider the system either "very good" (28.4%) or "fairly good" (50.8%). Although over 70% would like to see the system improved, an amazing 82% said they would support the 2.5 annual millage if it were again up for vote. Almost 90% consider the city's public transit system "very important." Finally, there was as much criticism of the fixed-line

bus component of the city's bus system as there was of Dial-a-Ride. And over 80% favored the present mixture of Dial-a-Ride and fixed-line system. Clearly, there has been no mandate from the community to dismantle Dial-a-Ride.

JOYCE Chesbrough, a Slauson Junior High school teacher, has been on the AATA board since 1974. She was an appointee of Republican Mayor James Stephenson.

Up until her arrival, the seven-member board had been solidly behind Dial-a-Ride. Several of the board members had actively campaigned for the millage proposal back in 1973. Board member Mike Berla was a chief organizer of that campaign. He would later write his U-M dis-

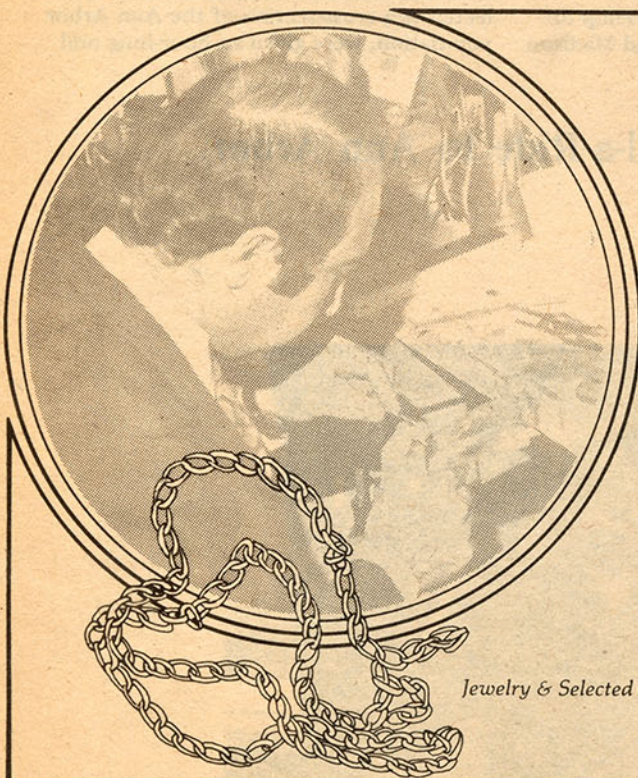
sertation on that experience. Board member Bill Drake, from the U-M's Urban & Regional Planning program, was Berla's dissertation chairman. Yet another board member, Bill McConnell, is a Ford Motor Company executive who had been Karl Guenther's boss back in the early 1970's when Guenther was experimenting with Dial-a-Ride for Ford.

This clique, which included AATA director Guenther and virtually the entire AATA board back in 1974, gained the reputation among skeptics as being blindly committed to Dial-a-Ride, no matter how high its costs and how low its productivity. When Chesbrough joined the board back in 1974, she began openly to question the Dial-a-Ride system, asking questions such as whether the ridership the system was generating was worth the cost and whether the system was reliable enough. Her reception by the board and by director Guenther was chilly, at best. Some say

she was treated condescendingly by the rest of the group.

Out of this situation an animosity grew between Chesbrough and Guenther, especially as Chesbrough's anti-Dial-a-Ride position solidified. Guenther came to see Chesbrough as blindly, stupidly anti-Dial-a-Ride, and Chesbrough came to see Guenther as self-servingly pro-Dial-a-Ride.

Recently the tables have turned, and the once powerless Chesbrough now has a majority on the board sympathetic to her viewpoint. The reason for this sudden shift on the board was Mayor Lou Belcher's victory last April, a victory that gave the Republicans control of AATA board appointments. Since in office, Belcher has made three key appointments to the board, Gary Hentz, Richard Beaupree, and Joel Samoff. Each of these appointees favors dismantling regular Dial-a-Ride service.



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This important shift in AATA policy, made possible by the recent appointments of board members who are still in the process of learning how the present system works, has outraged Dial-a-Ride supporters. They contend that board members who admittedly joined the board ignorant of the city's complex transit system are following Chesbrough in adopting policy positions clearly contrary to the wishes of the community as expressed in the ISR survey.

THE Dial-a-Ride versus line bus controversy is not the only one brewing between the pro-and anti-Dial-a-Ride factions on the board. AATA in recent years has faced growing budget deficits, and each side views these deficits differently.

The anti-Dial-a-Ride faction tends to see the deficits, which this year will hit \$400,000, as a clear indication that Dial-a-Ride is prohibitively expensive.

Those for Dial-a-Ride see the deficits as a result of poor cost forecasting and cost control by AATA staff, but not as an indication that the present system is too expensive. They point out that the likelihood is very great that a new federal mass transit package due for a vote in Congress this September will substantially increase the amount of federal dollars AATA will receive, thus keeping the present system afloat.

Anti-Dial-a-Ride members on the board have been skeptical that the transit package will pass. They have decided to assume that no more money will come from the federal government until it actually gets here. They have therefore been considering significant cuts in line bus service, cuts resulting in 30-minute bus frequencies where in many places the peak-hour frequency has been 15 minutes.

These proposed service reductions, likely to be introduced within a few months, are what particularly bothers Karl Guenther. As he sees it, the ISR survey clearly shows an overwhelming public sentiment for more bus service, not less. He sees the board as acting directly contrary to the will of the people by reducing service in the name of financial prudence when that prudence is completely unnecessary.

Guenther's view that a new, much larger federal appropriation for AATA will soon be forthcoming is echoed by professional magazines and newsletters in the public transit area. This view is also held by D.J. Mitchell, the Department of Transportation employee in Chicago who admin-

isters Ann Arbor's region. Mitchell told us the chance for passage of the appropriations bill is "about 100%," one reason being that bus service in most large American cities will soon have to be cut drastically if such appropriations don't come soon.

BY this past summer, disagreements between the majority on the AATA board and director Guenther had reached major proportions. Finally in July, AATA Board Chairman Ed Pear, a Republican appointee aligned with the board's anti-Dial-a-Ride faction, went to see Guenther and ask for his resignation. Pear told Guenther he no longer enjoyed the confidence of a majority on the board. Without questioning Pear's word, Guenther agreed to resign. He will step down at the end of September.

In talking with other members of the AATA board, it is not clear exactly where Pear felt he got his mandate to try and force Guenther to resign. According to newly-appointed anti-Dial-a-Ride board member Gary Hentz, "I was not in on any vote of no confidence." Hentz assumed the matter was handled by the board's personnel committee, which was in the process of evaluating Guenther's performance. That evaluation was never completed.

The other new Republican appointee on the board, Richard Beaupree, told us, "I don't think it would be a fair statement that I was in favor of his [Guenther's] leaving. It's probably more of a neutral position, frankly."

So far as we can determine, only Pear and Chesbrough actively favored removing Guenther, although others may have been happy he resigned.

Pear explained to us the reason why a majority on board no longer had confidence in Guenther: "There's a feeling: can the present director, who's been tied with this system, really look objectively at another system? Whether he says he can or not, will the public have confidence in him? Will the board have confidence in him? He does have a vested interest in the present system, and rightfully so. I don't criticize him for that. But it might be easier to make any changes in the system that need to be made with someone else."

Joyce Chesbrough voiced similar concerns. She told us, "I think a key was the conclusion that Dial-a-Ride is not a viable concept. I came to that conclusion three years ago and I think other board members have come to it in varying degrees. If we switch to a line system,

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"I think a key was the conclusion that Dial-a-Ride is not a viable concept. I came to that conclusion three years ago, and I think other board members have come to it in varying degrees. If we switch to a line system, Karl would be blamed if it didn't work, because he didn't want it to. And if it did work, there might be the feeling it would work better if somebody else had done it."

—Joyce Chesbrough

Karl would be blamed if it didn't work, because he didn't want it to. And if it did work, there might be the feeling it would work better if somebody else had done it." She went on, "I think Karl did what he came to do, and apparently enough of us on the board feel that it was not a success economically and in terms of reliability and moving large numbers of people quickly and efficiently."

Both Pear and Chesbrough think that redirecting service from Dial-a-Ride to line service will result in a much more reliable system, and therefore a system which is more appealing to most Ann Arborites. Says Pear, "Dependability and

reliability are the keys. If a line system can do that at the same or less cost, I think we'll be interested in changing."

Chesbrough believes a line system will gain more riders. Karl Guenther disagrees. He told us, "Since about a year ago, when we started looking at alternatives to Dial-a-Ride, I've been gathering every piece of information I could about systems which have changed over from Dial-a-Ride service to fixed-route service. There hasn't been any case I've found where that resulted in an increase in ridership. In every single documented case that change has resulted in a significant loss in ridership. I can only

assume the same thing will happen in Ann Arbor."

No one we talked to while researching this article denies that the Dial-a-Ride versus line bus question is a meaningful issue. What Dial-a-Ride proponents doubt, however, is whether the present majority on the board yet has a sufficient grasp of the complex issues involved in changing the system to act as precipitously as they seem to be doing. It may well be in the best interests of the community to discontinue regular Dial-a-Ride service. But given the positive view of Dial-a-Ride by citizens surveyed by the ISR, as well as Dial-a-Ride being the reason behind passage of Ann Arbor's high public transit millage in the first place, a lot more debate would seem called for.

At this time the board appears confused and leaderless. Its members have yet to adopt an annual budget for the

fiscal year which is already three months old. While a majority on the board seem to favor getting rid of Dial-a-Ride, no one we talked to is very clear about what will take its place next. One observer of recent events has described the board's recent policy making decisions as "moving like a rudderless ship."

This confused situation is reflected in an incident after the recent board meeting at which Karl Guenther's resignation was announced. According to one board member, "After that board meeting, it was a tense time. Everybody was apprehensive about what would happen next. So Ed [Pear] suggested we go out for a drink, the first time we've ever done anything like that. We went over to the Campus Inn and sat down to make some chitchat. Finally Ed said, 'Has anybody got an idea of where we go from here?'"



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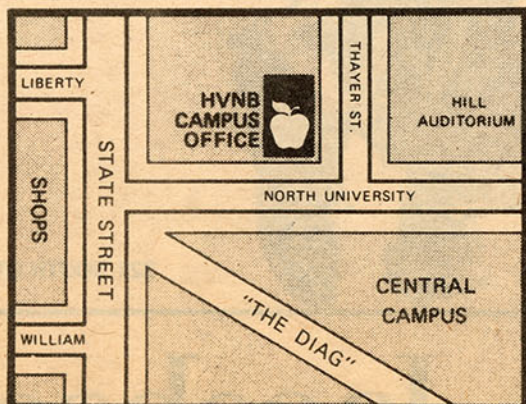
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After five years as director of AATA, Karl Guenther has been asked to resign. Here is his perspective on what the AATA board is doing.

Guenther Talks Back



Peter Yates

What are the implications of changing to a fixed line route bus system?

I think as long as 15 minute bus frequencies were maintained, as long as evening and weekend service are maintained, as long as an adequate level of service for elderly and handicapped people is maintained, that what Ann Arbor would have in a year and a half to two years with its all line bus system is a system that costs about the same as the system we have now, with probably about a 20% to 40% loss in ridership.

On what issue are you in greatest disagreement with the AATA board?

I think one of the issues facing the board right now and one of the things that I think is a very bad policy direction, is that they're talking about a 30-minute frequency bus system, whereas right now we have a 15-minute frequency system.

Board members say they are forced to make service cuts because of the budget crunch.

The money available to AATA this year is adequate to maintain present service on the street. I don't think anybody has disagreed about that point. The issue is whether there would be enough left for next year.

My judgment is that the best source of more money for next year is federal money. The federal money is formula money, there for everybody to share. It's based on a population and population density formula. And for Ann Arbor not to use all the money that is allocated to it by formula and at the same time to turn around and cut service from 15 minute to 30 minute frequencies just seems absurd to me.

What is the probability that Congress is going to pass funding legislation so as to continue subsidizing mass transit? I think the probability is so close to 100% that it's silly to talk in any other terms. The President has already signed the appropriation bill, even though the authorization bill hasn't yet been signed.

Why do you think the board is so cautious about counting on the federal funding?

I think, very honestly, that political ideology is the reason. I think there are people on the AATA board who follow the philosophy that was espoused by the mayor that running on federal money is running on a deficit—that something very important for Ann Arbor to do is to not have to depend on federal money to run on. But there certainly aren't many transit systems in the country that have adopted a philosophy that says, 'we don't want to use the federal money, we'll get along without it.'

At what point did you reach a breaking point with the board?

At the point that the board adopted a guaranteed deficit budget and refused to authorize the grant request for enough money to run the system is the point where I felt I just couldn't deal with it any more. It's very clear to me that the board's action was designed to do something other than to run a good transit system.

How do you analyze the service alternatives facing the board today?

If you accept my projections, which some of the board members refuse to do, you'll see that a 15-minute frequency, quarter mile [walking] distance line service ends up costing as much or more than the present system. The reason for that, and something a lot of people have a hard

time understanding, is the board's decision to continue Dial-a-Ride service for the elderly and the handicapped. Now, if the board wants to say that there is no special Dial-a-Ride service for that group in the community, then there's no doubt that you can save money with an all line bus system over the present Dial-a-Ride system—even with a 15-minute, quarter mile line system.

You sound pretty disgusted with the board.

The board doesn't have a goal statement right now. It has not got a clear mission statement. It doesn't seem to know what it wants to do with public transportation in the community. The board reminds me of my kids when they were growing up before they were in school: they know what they don't want, but they don't know what they do want.

How many on the board do you think really know what the issues are?

I'm not going to name names. I think there are board members who do understand these issues. They're clearly in the minority right now, because those who do understand the issues have not been so quick to act radically—to act like, "Let's get rid of Dial-a-Ride! Yeah! It seems like a neat thing to do! Let's vote!"

Of course the turnover on the board, and the number of appointees that the mayor had in April is the reason we have what we have right now. Two of these recent appointees made statements when they came on the board that they didn't know anything about transportation. I just let those statements stand on face value. I don't think a new board member can legitimately claim to be acting in the best interests of the community by coming in and starting making snap judgments in the areas of federal funding, balance of services, and how best to provide elderly and handicapped services, yet they seem perfectly willing to do that.

What's your perspective on the budget deficits AATA has run now for three straight years.

There are no excuses, only reasons for the deficits. I think the community has the right to expect that if a group of professionals is running a bus service, they ought to know what's going on with the money. And I feel that that has been an area that my performance has not been

all that I would expect of myself. I would grade myself with lower marks in budget performance than almost any other area. It's just been plain poor prediction—for example the cost of workmen's compensation. I think a lot of our lack of predictive capability comes right down on me. I think also during this period of fairly rapid growth at AATA, there's been just a plain lack of control over expenditures.

For example, the staff has taken the attitude if a bus breaks down, another one ought to be sent out to replace it. That's a quality of service decision, but it also turns out to be a budget decision, because inevitably that kind of thing drives the overtime budget up. And in the past at AATA, we just haven't asked enough hard questions about those kinds of things. Do we send that extra bus out, or do we leave that area uncovered? Do we provide an extra five or ten vehicles during a blizzard, or do we just let the service deteriorate?

Last year we provided about 5% more service hours than the budget provided, and we didn't even know about it. That can only be called lack of control. Internally something has been done about this problem, but unfortunately the results aren't yet there for the public to see.

Do you think Dial-a-Ride service ought to be maintained in Ann Arbor?

The ISR survey represents what we set out to achieve. We delivered to the community what it said it wanted for what it said it was willing to pay. And the survey says—certainly not that everything's perfect—but what you're doing out there is what we've asked for. But I think the majority on the board have decided for whatever political reasons to discard that sentiment completely.

I'm afraid that the sentiments of the people who have decided that Dial-a-Ride is evil and must be done away with—like a cancer, the feeling is almost that adamant—getting those kinds of people on the AATA board and having a mayor believe this too has caused the whole transit system to take a blow which the people haven't seen the results of, but they will. The whole community will suffer as a result.

The ISR survey shows about two thirds of Ann Arborites don't use the bus system at all, yet they strongly support it. Is there a basic hypocrisy in this attitude?

I suppose there is—the 'it's good for other people, but not good for me' thing. I'm as guilty of that as anyone else. You like to see high ridership and full buses, but your car is a very convenient way of getting around, there's no denying it.

Doesn't the sharp drop in ridership after the change from 25¢ to 35¢ fares last fall show demand for bus service is pretty tenuous in Ann Arbor?

Ridership didn't drop when we raised the fare, the growth in ridership just stopped. Ridership had been in a growth pattern that fall, and when the fare went up, it just stopped dead at that point.

It's a much stronger effect than I predicted or wanted. And it does make one wonder if the elasticity of demand is that high, or whether it's temporary. My hope is that it is just a temporary pause. Our latest figures for last July shows ridership is going back up again.

Yes, the pause in ridership growth was distressing to me, and if it really means that people are awfully iffy about the use of their busy system and just any little thing will cause them to ride less, it just makes the transit marketing that much more difficult.

What's the biggest mistake you've made as director of AATA?

The biggest mistake I've made as director has probably been not getting Lou Belcher sold on the fact that Ann Arbor has a damn good public transit system. I don't know if that was a do-able thing or not, but I'm certain that I didn't do everything I could to try.

Actually, letting Joyce Chesbrough be the spokesperson for the Republican Party for transportation was maybe my biggest mistake.

What are you going to do now?

My objective now is to establish an equity position in a business that I'm a partner in, and I'm going to do that. It will be a manufacturing business in the small automotive speciality area.

I've decided that what I want to do next is be an entrepreneur. It's something I've never been. It's the whole idea of putting ideas to work that I have about management. And being responsible to myself instead of a board. I'm not an inventor, I'm a person who knows how to take somebody's invention and make it happen. That's what I do well.

Do you think you would have stayed on much longer at AATA had you not been forced to resign?

If the board had continued to deal with this year's budget the way they were, I would have gotten to the ultimatum stage very soon. Because the mess the board has got this year's budget in is just so bad that nobody can work with it.

The board adopted an interim budget that doesn't bring in enough money to operate the system on a break-even basis by anybody's projection. So it's a guaranteed deficit budget. That to me is in and of itself a mess. Especially when the staff pointed out five or six different options for adopting a budget that was not a deficit budget.

On the expense side, they've only approved expenses for a three month period. As of now, the staff has no budget controls to work with as to how much to spend. Here it is September, three months after a budget should have been adopted, and the board has not even instructed the staff what kind of a nine month budget for the rest of the year to prepare. I call that a mess.

The board has handled things in such a way that no administrator could deal with it. It's an impossible situation. It's not only what kind of system are we going to start running, but what is our maintenance budget going to be for next year? How much do we have to spend on utilities? The staff just doesn't know.

My First Days Of College

Eight Ann Arborites tell what it was like for them.

The first days of college are full of excitement and fear, the point where dreams and ambitions come face-to-face with everyday reality. You're away from home for the first time, you don't know anybody, you're one of thousands instead of the boy or girl most likely to succeed, and you're worried that you

won't make it. But you can't let anybody else know.

Annette Churchill talked to eight Ann Arbor people, accomplished and successful in their fields, about their freshman years.

Jim Lesch

College was an escape route for many ambitious boys from small town America who grew up in the 1920's and 1930's. Thirty or forty years later small-town boys, largely from the Midwest and West, dominated the leadership of many large corporations and universities which had previously been the domain of Easterners. Jim Lesch of Danville, Illinois, chemist and presently U-M Director of Research and Administration, was among them.

I sure do remember my first impressions of De Pauw University when I entered in 1939. De Pauw, in Greenville, Indiana, presented quite a contrast to my home town of Danville, Illinois. Danville had seven railroads running right through it and 37,000 inhabitants involved in coal mining, zinc mining, and farming. Its red light district was famous. Danville was known as one of the three

toughest towns in the United States. John Dillinger, Public Enemy Number One, stopped in town frequently.

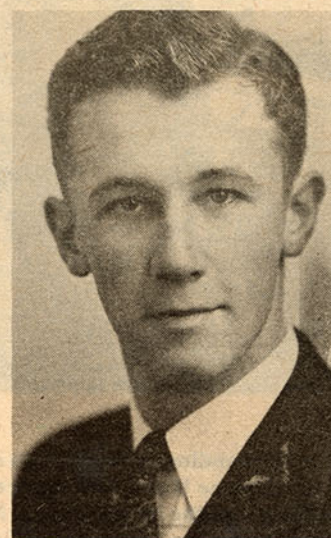
My father was in deep financial trouble. He sold insurance, one of the first expenses people had dropped when the Depression hit. I was a top student at Danville High School. I knew the way to escape Danville was to go to college, but I had to find a way to do it for nothing. An appointment to Annapolis fell through, but a half-hearted application I had made for a Rector Scholarship at De Pauw was accepted. It paid full tuition for four years. I found a room in Greenville which I could have free in exchange for firing the coal furnace and doing the family laundry, and a job waiting on tables at a sorority which gave me my board. I was all set.

So here I was at De Pauw, a small private school in a pretty town. The academic standards were high; the atmosphere

was pre-World War II "collegiate." The campus was happy and untroubled. A lot of energy went into busy fraternity and sorority social rounds and proms, into the football rivalry we had with Wabash College, and into pranks like leading a cow to the top of the campus bell tower. The nearest thing to a campus scandal was the marriage of two students *before graduation!* When we'd spot them together on campus, we'd poke each other in the ribs and whisper, "Imagine that! They're married!" I fumbled calculus

my first semester which deflated my self-confidence somewhat.

When the United States declared war on Japan in 1941, male students buckled down to one of several programs that permitted them to finish school in return for military service later. A few patriots and some men with shaky grades volunteered for service immediately. The University, in sudden panic, required all men to attend lectures on sex with emphasis on VD. None of us questioned the war or that we would inevitably be part of it.



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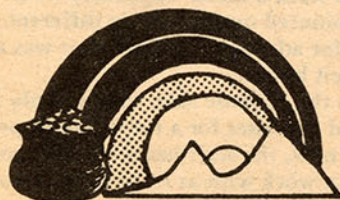


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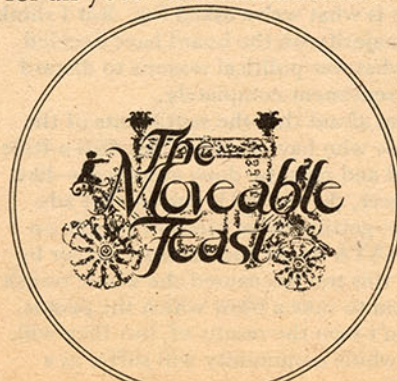
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Jean Campbell

Jean Campbell, Program Director for the Center for Continuing Education of Women, was 16 when she entered Northwestern in 1934. Going to college was a very serious matter for her and a great many other students during the Depression, not at all to be taken for granted.

I remember the first days of college well. How can I tell you about them without making it sound grim? You see, the times were grim. I was a top student in the top tracked high school in Chicago. I entered Northwestern University in 1934. I was sixteen years old. Of my ten best friends in high school, all of whom were marvelous students, only two of the girls found a way to go to a four-year college. I had won one of the five Rosenthal Scholarships, full scholarships for four years, offered through the public schools in the city of Chicago.

When I enrolled in Northwestern, I applied myself immediately and totally to

work. I always was conscious of all those other fine students over whom I had won, and I felt a strong obligation to prove myself worthy of the honor. My room in the freshman dormitory opened right on to the smoking lounge, the only room in the building where smoking was permitted and the great gathering place of the dorm. But I never joined the girls in there. I don't think my personality was grave and dour. But my commitment to success was total. I certainly didn't worry about getting better grades than the boy students, or any inability to cope with success! But I had to prove the scholarship committee's faith in me was well founded, and I had to emerge from the university with skills that would be useful to others. I majored in psychology, went on to get an M.A. in the psychology of reading. I must say, my parents sacrificed a good deal.

Northwestern is a private school, and there was a deep split on campus between



those who were affluent in spite of the Depression and the real Depression kids who were all there on scholarships. The



great political awakening for many of us was the Spanish Civil War. But I wasn't politically active, merely aware.

Sy Murray

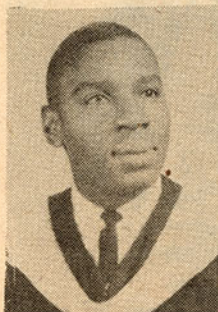
Ann Arbor City Administrator Sy Murray had been at the top of his 1958 class at an all-black Miami high school. But when he left home for the first time to go north to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he was in for a shock..

My father was a third-grade dropout, and all he knew was that you were supposed to go to college. His position was that you had to go to school and make something of yourself. There could be no dropping out.

My oldest brother dropped out of high school and tried to make it as a blues singer (he didn't make it), and the day he dropped out, my father was through with him.

I went to Lincoln because I wanted to get away from Miami. I was looking for the farthest away school that would give me a scholarship.

I can only describe my first few weeks as a deeply impressive experience. I had come from an all-black high school in Miami, Florida, where I had been at the



top of my class. I had never left home before.

So here I was in the north for the first time in my life. I was in a rural setting 45 miles from Philadelphia, for the first time in my life. It was my first time in a small school. Most important, I was experiencing life in an inter-racial group for the first time. (Though the student body at Lincoln was black, the teachers were mostly white.) It wasn't easy.

To begin with, I was extremely lonely, even frightened at times. You see, I had to make all these adjustments against a

background of freshman hazing. Hazing was a strong tradition at Lincoln. Upper classmen treated freshmen with disdain and played tricks on them to scare them. Luckily I made friends with two huge muscular athletes who protected me.

The first semester at Lincoln was rough. I had come from an all-black southern school, so that when I got to the north, I found that our schooling had not been as good as I had thought. I was competing with blacks from much better northern schools. That first semester, I actually got a 'D.' I'll never forget

I learned a great deal during the next three and a half years. I made loads of friends, corrected the weaknesses in my

educational preparation, earned excellent grades. I became an organizational and group leader. When I graduated in 1963, I was president of my class.

My father had had two dreams. One was to put all his children through college. The other was to buy himself a Cadillac and go to visit New York City. In the 40's and 50's, that was like being in heaven. He finally realized that second dream on my graduation. I was the last of his kids to graduate, so he bought a new Cadillac, attended my graduation in Pennsylvania, and then went to New York for three or four days before going back home.

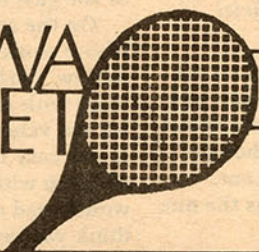
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Bill Conlin

Ann Arbor attorney Bill Conlin entered The University of Michigan in 1949. Although he grew up here and belonged to an extremely well-connected Ann Arbor family, life at Michigan brought major adjustments.

I entered the University of Michigan in 1949. It was the first non-sectarian school I had ever attended. I grew up in Ann Arbor, but back in eighth grade my father had thought I would benefit from the rigors of a tough high school and had sent me to Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It was a good school and, for what it's worth, the alma mater of Joyce Kilmer.

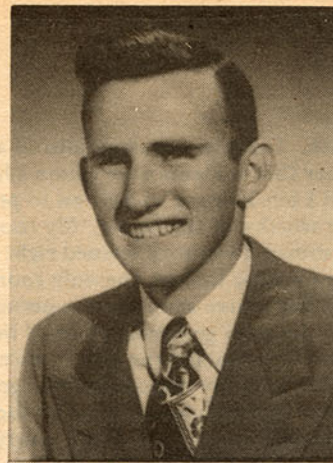
So here I was back in Ann Arbor with hardly a friend I remembered from grade-school days. I got a job at Follett's Bookstore and plunged into registration week. All week I found myself grouped with the same students. Their names all started with C, and through some fluke of probability they were mostly Jewish. I

hung around with my new friends well into rushing period when one of them kindly told me that I was not likely to get an invitation from a Jewish fraternity.

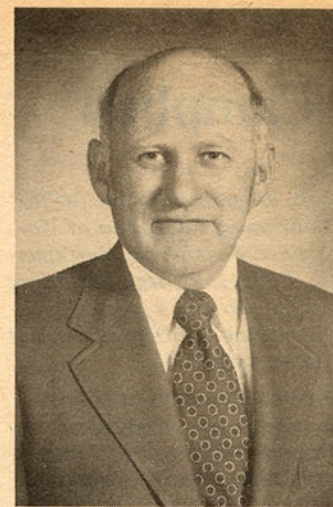
I lived at home that year. The toughest thing was being a townie. I felt out of it not living on campus. My second year I pledged Alpha Delta Phi. Then having a home in Ann Arbor was an advantage. Whenever my parents left town I'd have two hundred kids over to the house for a party.

I'd never been in a classroom with more than twenty-five students before. When I found myself in huge lecture halls with five hundred other kids, I thought "Golly, this is great! It's like going to the movies!" I took no notes. How could anyone forget those beautifully organized lectures? My first grades proved I could.

The big social event of the year was J Hop in January. Who you took to it was a matter of grave importance. I took Nancy Washburn of Ann Arbor to the 1950 J Hop, and a picture of us together was in the *Ann Arbor News*.



In 1949 fifty per cent of the male students at Michigan were veterans of World War II. They applied themselves pretty seriously, trying to catch up on their interrupted lives. I'd say my class in college was very docile. In all my years at Michigan and then at Michigan



Law School I never met a radical. We were just getting through. The beginning of the Korean War in 1950 was a jolt. My brother was drafted and later when my father died unexpectedly, that left me the oldest son at home. I realized it was time to grow up.



Robben Fleming

U-M President Robben Fleming's high school and college experience was a far cry from that at the big universities he was to lead in later life.

I grew up in a little town of five hundred in Northern Illinois. In 1934, when it came time to go away to school, I thought I would be more comfortable in a small liberal arts college. I chose Beloit College, in Wisconsin, which had about six hundred students.

Perhaps because I had never been away from home, I was lonely and uneasy during my first few days at school. I didn't know anyone, I had to adjust to going to "school" only when classes were scheduled, and I had to discipline myself in the use of "free time." I attended college social events and became involved in athletics, and before long I felt at home. I now look back on the whole experience with warm and pleasant memories.

I had to work to pay a large part of my expenses. The campus was under the influence of the Depression throughout my years there. Students didn't have cars or any extra money for a social life. The college, through fees, provided all opportunities for recreation. We all felt keenly that we were very privileged to be in college.

There were some German students at Beloit extolling what they called the New Germany. We soon began to experience uneasiness over the foreshadowings of World War II.



Margaret Parker

Margaret Parker is an artist and stage set designer. In 1965 she came to Bennington, the traditionally avant-garde women's college in Vermont, from the big suburban public high school in Glenview, Illinois. Going east was something of a culture shock, she found, though sometimes it was hard to figure out who was really more naive, herself of the superficial sophisticates she encountered.

I didn't have much money and all the girls looked pretty rich to me. They had a style of talking fast and excitedly about even unimportant things, and I thought they all had a strange snobby accent. Then it occurred to me that I was the one who had the accent!

The views of the Green Mountains around Bennington are very beautiful, almost too much so. I missed the flat country of home and I ached to see the horizon. I was lonely and homesick.

The course offerings in the catalogue sounded so great I wanted to study everything! I soon found out that catalogues are puff sheets to some degree. But in general, Bennington courses were a feast for students of the creative arts. I was overwhelmed by the easy intimacy with which students discussed their deep-



est feelings about things. I had pretty well hidden my sensitivity in Glenview.

The president of the college greeted the freshmen at the first assembly. He said, "Bennington girls are born, not made." I thought that was a silly thing to say, but when I looked around me and saw all the glowing eyes I could see most of the girls agreed with him.

On the art faculty were many people whose work you see in the finest galleries in New York. They were fiercely competitive with each other and had a keen eye for the value of novelty in the art game. It was easy to impress them. You presented them with something bizarre and they would read deep meaning into it. "I think you're on to something," they'd say sagely.

In spite of this silliness I found the work at Bennington thrilling. Studying with a tyrannical professor of theater who was deep into Russian ensemble theory changed my life. My work today reflects his approach. After two years I began to feel the physical isolation of Bennington keenly. I transferred to Michigan and the real world. But I wouldn't have missed those two years at Bennington for anything.



The Diag, c. 1935

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Dorothy McGuigan

Author Dorothy McGuigan wrote her first major book, *The Habsburgs*, while being a full-time housewife and mother; a recent success was her entertaining and

carefully researched *Metternich*. When she came to *The University of Michigan* in the 1930's, she saw it more as an amusement than a challenge or threat.

I was all set to go to Wellesley when I graduated from high school at fifteen. I had been accepted there, but then my family suffered financial reverses which made this impossible. We all moved to Ann Arbor from New York State, and I entered the University of Michigan. Michigan was very much a Depression campus in the thirties. Most of us were poor, often newly poor and trying to adjust to the fact. I lived at home. Tuition was \$50 a semester.

I came from an excellent high school in Rochester, New York. In fact I was so well prepared that I found the required freshman course work at Michigan utterly boring. So my memories are mostly of funny things that happened that first year.

Part of orientation week was given over to very thorough physical exams. I seem to remember we spent an entire day in angel gowns going from one examining booth to another where medical students practiced looking us over from head to toe. There was even a fledgeling psychiatrist among them who asked, "Have you had any interesting dreams lately?"

Hygiene was a required course for all freshman girls. It was taught by Dr. Margaret Bell, a master of obfuscation when lecturing on sex. She had found a way to talk about it for an entire semester without ever saying what went on. When slides on venereal disease meant to be shown to boys were accidentally shown to us girls, Dr. Bell lost all control. She shrieked, "Stop! Stop! Stop the projector!" On the last day of class a girl asked, "How do you have an abortion?" Neither the question nor the answer meant a thing to most of us. What we wanted to know was what an abortion *was*, but the atmosphere brought on by the original question was too charged for any of us to dare ask.

I won my first Hopwood Award in my freshman year. With the \$100 prize, I bought a second-hand Pontiac roadster with a rumble seat, and immediately my social stock rose. (Students living on



campus weren't allowed to have cars.) One year Arthur Miller, already a playwright in his student days, submitted a play to the Hopwood Committee in March. Arthur vowed not to change his socks until the awards were announced in May for fear of queering his luck. When May rolled 'round and Arthur won, his friends heaved great sighs of relief. Arthur smelled like his own sweet self again.

Bill Haber

Bill Haber, recently retired LS&A dean at *The University of Michigan*, went off to *The University of Wisconsin* in 1920 at the age of 16 and found it a very stimulating place.

I had been attending a big city high school in Milwaukee. My mother was a widow, and money was very scarce in our family. I had had a station on a sidewalk in downtown Milwaukee from which I sold newspapers and magazines. I leased it to a gentleman on condition he give my mother \$15 a month, and I was off to college. I found an inexpensive room to live in, and my landlady steered me to a job in the registrar's office. I paid my tuition, which was an incredible \$12.50 a semester. Of this \$1 was an athletic fee and \$1 was a health fee!

What was it like? Let me set the stage. In 1920 there was no liquor, certainly no drugs, no radio, no hi-fi, no television. Movies were silent. There was no women's suffrage, no cars to speak of, no commercial airlines. Once we got to Madison by train, we were stuck there. There were no public address systems and no amplifiers, and that was significant. Because the biggest enthusiasm on campus, right up there with football, was oratory! Oratory and formal debate drew huge crowds. The selection of the Class Orator and the University Orator followed fierce contests. Famous orators came to speak to us. I heard William Jennings Bryan three times. I joined the Athena Literary and Debating Society, of which Sen. Robert LaFollett had been a member. His picture once again hung face out on the wall of our meeting room. All through World War I it had hung face-to-the-wall, in protest against his refusal to vote for the United States' Declaration of War against Germany.

The Wisconsin campus seethed with yeasty liberal debate. The professors took positions on issues. Milwaukee had twice elected a socialist, Victor Berger, to Congress, and his wife, Meta Berger, was appointed to the Board of Regents of the University. I knew her. When I told her I was thinking of preparing my-

self for a career in either law or economics, she advised me against it. "We're going to have a Socialist society in this country in just a few years," she said very seriously. "U.S. law, a device to protect capitalist institutions, will be useless and capitalist economics will be, too." I was not persuaded.

I didn't go to college for career reasons. I went to find myself and to establish my relation to the world. In the end I became an economist.

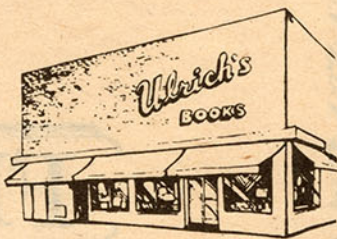


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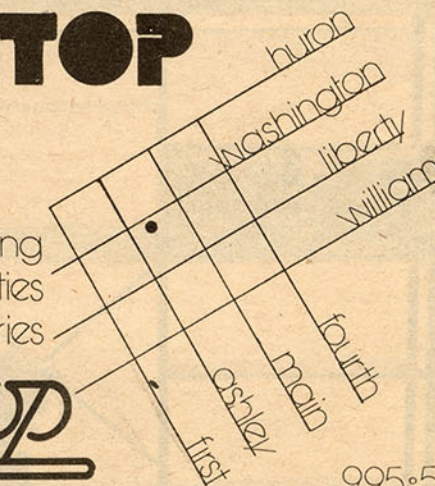
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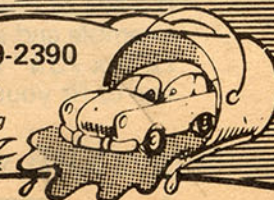
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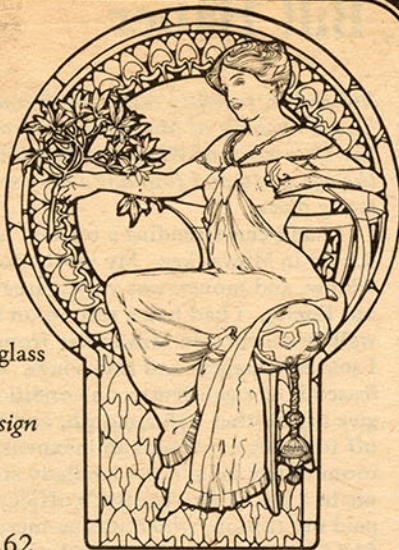
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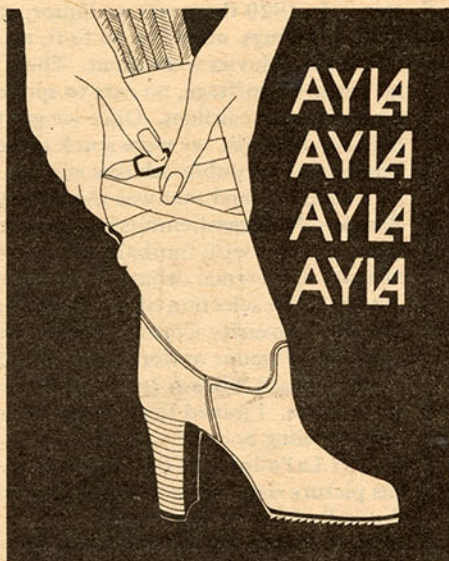


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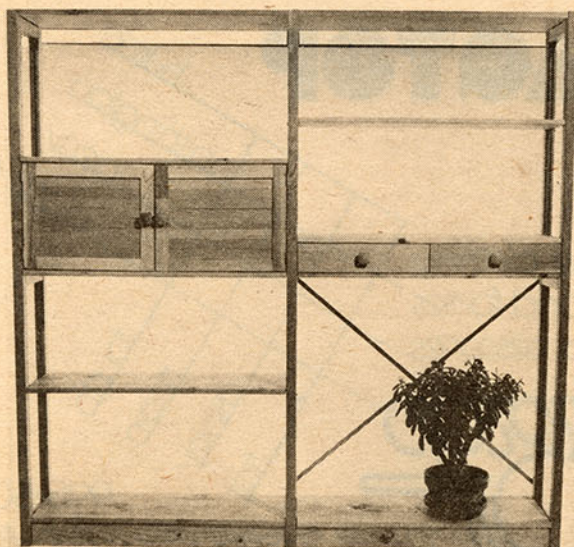
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There's a peaceful area between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti that is ripe for commercial development. Recently top planning professionals from across the country came here to suggest ways this building boom can serve the public, not just private interests.

FOR years Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti have been inching spontaneously towards one another, and now there is not much space left between the two cities. There is one area between the two cities, however, that remains somewhat unscathed: a landscape of rolling hills, farmland, the Huron River, and only spotty development. This heavily wooded area, which includes the new St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, is bounded on the west by U.S. 23, on the south by Washtenaw Avenue, on the east by Superior Road, and on the north by Geddes.

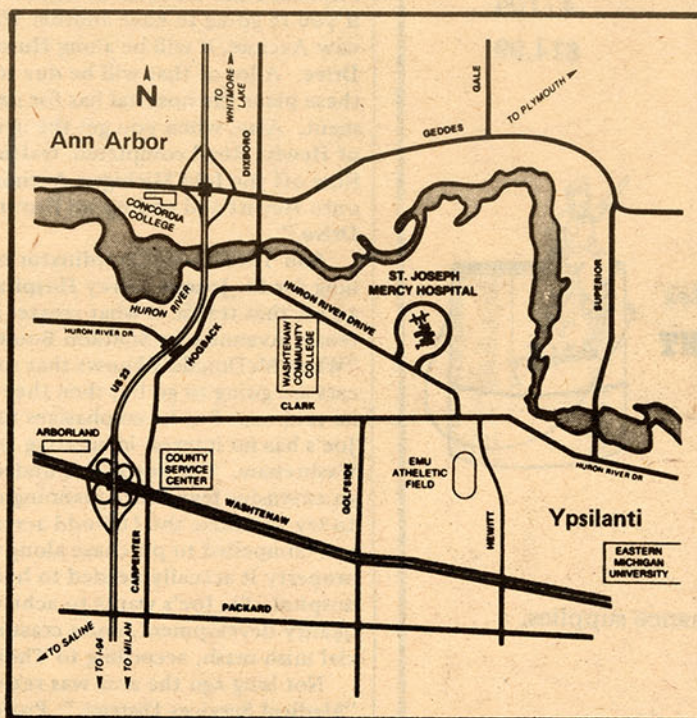
"Maybe," thought local architect Michael McKelvey, "we can save this with a R/UDAT." The acronym stands for Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team, a group of highly skilled professionals recruited from all over the country to study an area. It is a service provided by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) to communities which need fresh and comprehensive solutions to their urban problems. R/UDATs started in 1967, primarily as a response to cries for disaster assistance after floods and tornadoes, but they have come to embrace almost any kind of urban planning need. There have been about fifty studies since 1967, including one in Detroit and one in Lansing.

McKelvey, 36, graduated from the University of Michigan School of Architecture and four years ago established his own firm in Ann Arbor. He is president of the Huron Valley Chapter of the AIA, and it was through his office that he decided to try to organize in 1976 a R/UDAT study for the increasingly vulnerable Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti corridor.

"There was a strong feeling that area was going to start to develop, but that another Washtenaw Avenue, with its

hodge-podge of fast food chains and used car dealers, was the last thing people wanted," McKelvey told us. "We thought there would be a real advantage to having someone come in from the outside to evaluate the situation. They would have no vested interests, no axes to grind, so they really would be objective."

First, McKelvey enlisted the support, both financial and moral, of institutions and governmental bodies with an interest in the area: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, The University of Michigan, the Washtenaw County Commission, and Superior, Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Ypsilanti townships.



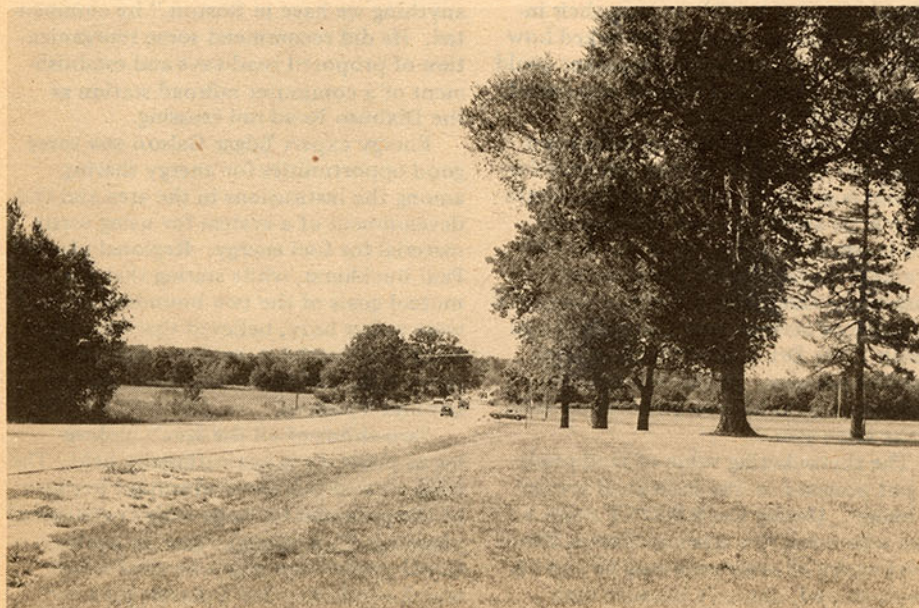
McKelvey then obtained approval for the study from the AIA's national office in Washington, D.C. Although under the wings of the AIA, R/UDATs are by no means composed exclusively of architects. The team assembled was comprised of a nationally distinguished group of men from several professions. Its members included two architect/urban designers, team chairman Ben Cunningham from Minneapolis and Norman Hoover from Houston; Ian Ball, a political scientist from New York City; Edgar Galson, a mechanical engineer and energy specialist from Syracuse; Harry Garnham, a landscape-architect from College Station, Texas; Jim Murray, an economist from Boulder, Colorado; and Tony DiSarcina,

a civil engineer and transportation specialist from Boston.

After the R/UDAT team's creation, McKelvey and the Huron Valley AIA Chapter notified local property owners and the surrounding community of its impending visit. The effort culminated in the team's arrival on June 23, 1978, for an intense, high-powered four-day study, representing about 1600 to 1800 person hours. Within that compressed time period, the team made a land and aerial reconnaissance of the area, talked to institutional and governmental leaders, property owners and other interested individuals, and then sequestered themselves on the 10th floor of EMU's Hoyt Conference Center in order to analyze their findings. Amidst a snowstorm of maps, diagrams, photoprints, newspaper clippings, and reports, they hammered out a 60-page document, which was completely printed and ready for a public presentation at Washtenaw Community College on June 26th, the final evening of the R/UDAT study. They were assisted by students from the U of M College of Architecture and from Eastern Michigan University and by interested volunteers. At the end of the four days, one volunteer commented, "I feel like I've participated in a war effort."

Except for having their expenses paid, the team received no compensation. "We do it," explained Buckhurst, "because it's stimulating, it's a chance to meet people outside of your own small circle, and because it helps us learn too."

WHAT did the team find? First of all that the area under question is not merely ripe for development, it is just about to erupt. "The next changes that take place there will be signal ones," predicted Hoover.



Could the land along Huron River Drive (left) eventually look like Washtenaw Ave. (right)? That's one of the worries which set in motion a major planning study of the area.

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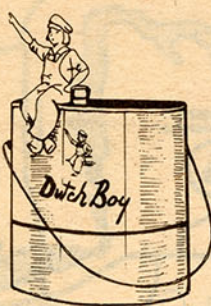
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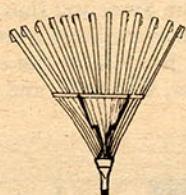


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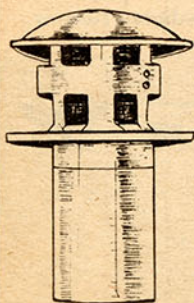
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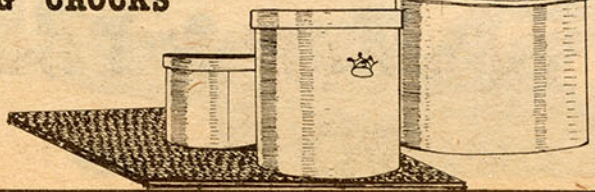
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Noted Tom Fegan, Director of the Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and one of the team's many local resource people, "Development there is inevitable. We have to face that. This is a highly desirable area; people want to live in Washtenaw County, and we have to have some place to put them. Population projections show that our county will go from 260,000 in 1975 to over 400,000 by the year 2000."

Driving or biking through the area now, you find little visible evidence of an impending development explosion. Dotting the main roads, particularly Clark Road and Huron River Drive, however are symptoms of coming growth. Clark Road already has a few multiple family housing units built up, some offices and business establishments. "I think Clark Road might end up looking like Golfside, with apartments, small businesses and the like," speculates Bill Smart Physical Plant Director at EMU. "But if you're going to have another Washtenaw Avenue, it will be along Huron River Drive. A lot of that will be due to all these plans the hospital has for development. Also, when you get the new leg of Hewitt Road completed, traffic will flow off the I-94 Michigan Avenue exit onto Hewitt and end up on Huron River Drive."

Bob Thompson, Coordinator of Planning for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, agrees that traffic is what creates a Washtenaw Avenue or a Stadium Boulevard. "When McDonald's knows that so many cars are going to go by, then they build," he told me. But he emphasizes that St. Joe's has no interest in creating another Washtenaw. The hospital is undertaking an extensive long-range planning effort to try to utilize the 165-odd acres was compelled to purchase along with the property it actually needed to build the hospital. St. Joe's wants to achieve high-quality development, not a crass commercial mish-mash, according to Thompson.

Not long ago the area was rezoned as a "Medical Services District." Professional office buildings and a private kidney dialysis unit have already gone up near St. Joe's. The hospital's long-range site plan envisions staff housing, social service agencies, residential housing, commercial retail activities, office buildings, a hotel for families of patients, plus land designated for recreational buildings and activities.

With ambitious goals like these and the omnipresent need to remain financially solvent, the hospital has set itself a challenging task. Can St. Joe's prevent their development efforts from creating a domino effect, in spite of good intentions? Once a hotel and office buildings go up, the people who use them will need services—gas, restaurants, stores. Is St. Joe's going to take the responsibility for overseeing these kinds of developments and insuring they are of high quality? Will the hospital be able to stop their incursion if they are not? When asked how high-quality, attractive development could be insured, Thompson himself responded, "It's beyond me."

If property values are any indication of nascent development, the evidence for a boom is strengthened. While real estate just a little north and east of the study area is currently going for about \$5,000 an acre, Gundar Myran, President of Washtenaw Community College, estimated the value of acreage near Clark Road and Huron River Drive to be worth at least \$20,000 per acre. Others thought the land might go as high as \$80,000 an acre in the same area.

The skyrocketing value of land tends to put pressure on the individual property owner. During the R/UDAT study a man who owns five acres on Huron River Drive spoke of some concerns he and his family shared, not only because their taxes are going up, but because they are being assessed for things like improve-

ments in road surface along the front of their land. "We really don't want to sell," he said, "but I don't know how much longer we can afford those five acres with just a family dwelling on them."

In working out their solutions for the study area, the R/UDAT team first visualized three options:

- Option 1 would simply be to let things go as they seem to be going, with no basic change made in methods of land control or in patterns of jurisdiction;
- Option 2 would be to attempt to limit growth, halt the continuing merger of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and encourage development of a new county park along the Huron River;
- Option 3 is for high-intensity development which would comprise a well-balanced mixture of single and multiple family residences, institutional projects, commercial expansion, transportation services, park lands, and green spaces. After exploring the possibilities with each of the three options, the team elected Option 3 as the best choice for the area.

Because of the Washtenaw County growth projections and expansion plans already underway, especially those of the hospital, team members viewed the limited growth option as already impractical. Option 1 was undesirable because it had the potential to produce uncontrolled expansion, à la Washtenaw Avenue, and because it was economically unwise from the standpoint of savings in land costs, shared services, and public and private investments. They also felt that Option 3, which contained proposals for stronger centralized governmental or institutional leadership, had the best capability for executing a development strategy.

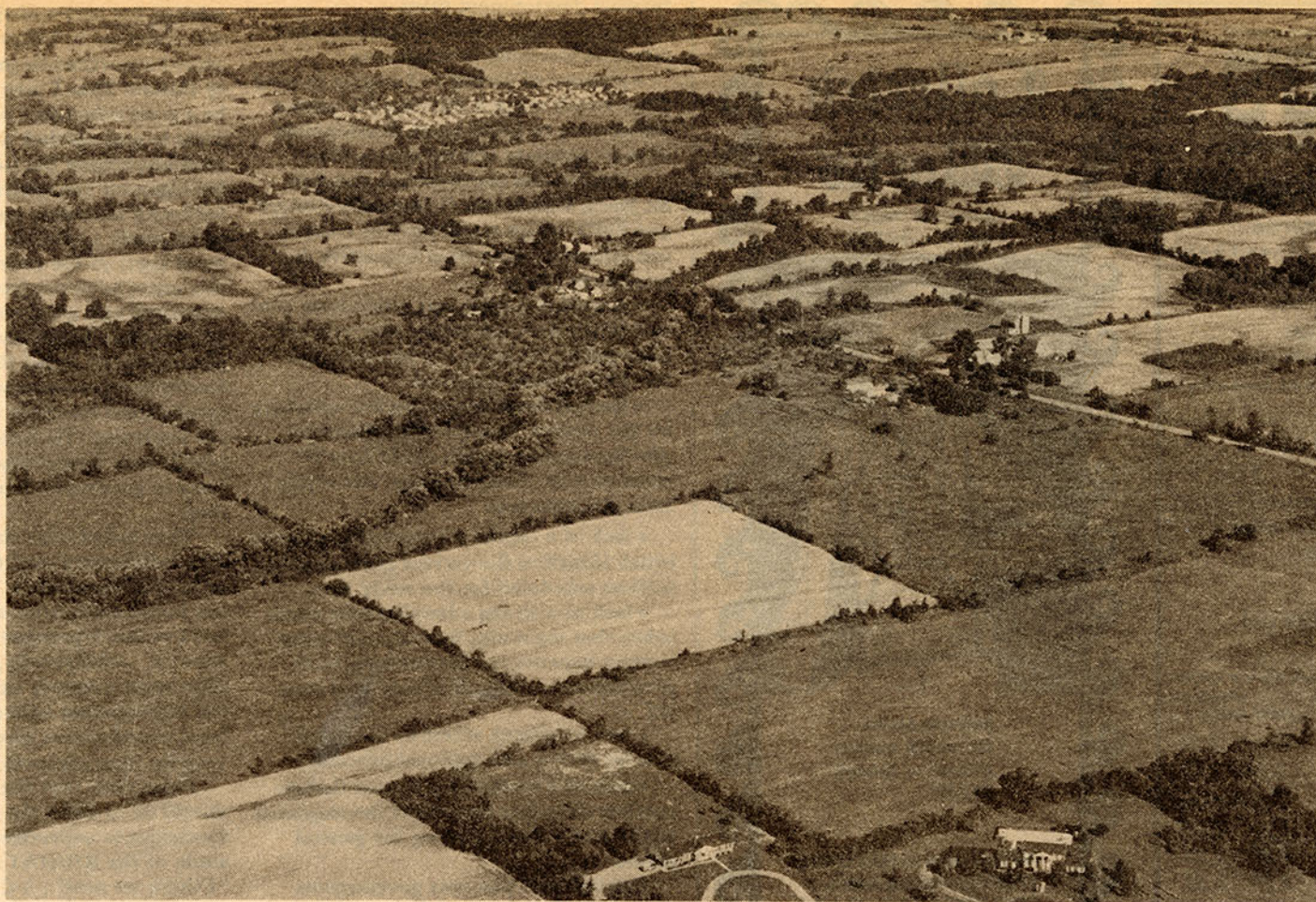
The team was enthusiastic about the area's potential. They cited a number of very positive elements that would make orderly, balanced and aesthetically pleasing growth possible. Jim Murray, the economist, was impressed with the stable tax base, reinforced by the unusually high number of government-supported jobs. But he warned that with the changes in property tax laws likely to come in Michigan, careful planning will be even more imperative because of the stresses that will be put on governmental budgets.

Harry Garnham, the landscape architect, saw the Huron River meandering through the area as a "hidden amenity" with enormous potential for development as a linear park with bike paths, hiking trails, picnic and nature study areas, and pleasant vistas. His proposals emphasized the need for maintaining the natural ingredients already existing in the area and providing free and spontaneous access to the river bank.

Tony DiSarcina, the transportation specialist, was impressed with Ann Arbor's existing public transit system and bike-ways. "What you have come up with here is probably four to five times better than anything we have in Boston," he commented. He did recommend some reorganization of proposed roadways and establishment of a commuter railroad station at the Dixboro Road rail crossing.

Energy expert Edgar Galson saw some good opportunities for energy sharing among the institutions in the area and the development of a system for using waste material for fuel energy. Regional planner Paul Buckhurst, while stating that the mutual goals of the two boundary cities were rather hazy, believed that the area had the potential to evolve a character all its own, different from both Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Two-thirds of all the area's undeveloped property is institutionally held. The team viewed this as an advantage because of the potential for large-scale coordinated planning. They thought that an institutional consortium might be established which would develop a master plan for using land and selling off property in an orderly fashion.



An aerial photo of a portion of the area studied. A central obstacle to a coordinated plan for this land is its location at the junction of four townships: Superior, Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Ypsilanti. Each township has authority to zone its portion however it wants, and competition for commercial development between the townships could make it difficult to have consistent, effective land use restrictions.

WITH all of these pluses, pleasant, orderly growth of the area almost sounds unavoidable. But it seems that there is one big minus—local government. Ian Ball, the growth management specialist, stated that because of the

more than dozen public and quasi-public agencies which share overlapping authority for the area, current opportunities for coordinated planning are dim, if not impossible.

Ball cited 15 areas where this frag-

mentation of authority made planning difficult. They include:

- an inadequate comprehensive planning framework with limited responsibility on the parts of the hospital, community college, university, and utility au-

thorities, making intergovernmental coordination more difficult

- planning that did not examine its impact upon other governmental units or agencies or insure that off-site development impacts were consistent with insti-

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tutional development plans

- fiscal competition between county, city, and township governments
- absence of timing and staging in local plans which make it difficult for private landowners to know when development of their property will be appropriate
- insufficient coordination between St. Joe's, Washtenaw Community College and EMU, which could provide continuous information on their respective development plans
- township zoning and subdivision control which does not insure adequacy of basic public facilities as a precondition for development approval
- limited development review authority by the county, in spite of the fact that development proposals might have serious county road, drainage, and septic tank consequences

• lack of a capital programming process which identifies the various governmental services scheduled for the study area

• lack of a strong administrative mechanism that maintains formal or informal contact between the institutions, local government units, and private land owners

• lack of citizen access to the development review and approval process

• lack of a monitoring system that accurately describes how much development of the study area is costing the general public.

Ball believed that area governments must recognize the need for strong and coordinated growth management policies and programs. The optimal solution, he believes, would be the assumption of a strong leadership role by the county in guiding the area's overall development. The institutional consortium was suggested as an alternative to the role proposed by the county government.

Is it possible for the county to obtain this kind of power from the cities and townships? The County Planning Com-

mission has reviewed the R/UDAT study and endorsed it, believing that it presented a worthwhile program. But County Planner Tom Fegan feels there would be a great reluctance on the part of local units to give up their authority. He does not believe the time is yet ripe in Michigan for the centralization of zoning authority in county governments. There is definitely a trend in this direction in other parts of the country. Townships in this state, however, have become highly organized and are strongly committed to self-control. Fegan observed a "lack of participation" in the R/UDAT effort by township representatives, although their involvement had been encouraged from the beginning. He believes that this low profile may imply reluctance on their parts to get involved in coordinated planning.

When asked what the source of township indifference might be, Fegan speculated that because few people actually live in the study area, the townships did not feel much pressure to be concerned about it. Additionally, because the townships want a certain amount of commercial development to broaden their tax base, coordination may be less in their interest than competition.

Fegan feels that the next major effort should be to enlist the involvement of townships in collective discussion and study of the R/UDAT recommendations. "I think we need a 3-C approach," he said, "communication, coordination, and cooperation."

Others were more skeptical. A resident property owner in the area who has recently worked with the Superior Township Board on some development issues commented, "I think that no matter what is planned or said, if there's money to be made, people are going to go in that direction. I also think that developers have the township boards and planning commissions in the palms of their

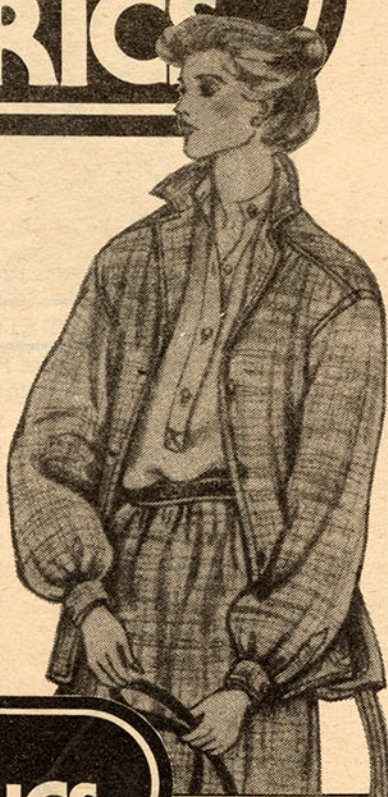
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—Area resident Evelyn Avsharian

hands. The developers help them get elected and then get their votes when they want to do something in the area. And the developers are the ones who can afford to hire lawyers to sit at meetings until midnight or after when the decisions are really made."

Evelyn Avsharian represents the Chalmers Neighborhood Association, an area just behind Arborland and just west of the study area. She read a prepared statement to the R/UDAT team and voiced the frustrations of a citizen group which had attempted to work with local government to block some moves they considered detrimental to their neighborhood.

The Chalmers Association discovered that an extension of Clark Road had been proposed which would cross over the U.S. 23 bridge, feed through several small, country roads (and in one proposal, through Ms. Avsharian's house) and end up on Huron Parkway. They believed this added traffic load would spoil what was still "miraculously" a rather rural area, and that it had the ignominious Washtenaw Avenue potential as well. They also objected to a proposed "developer-induced" R-8 rezoning which would permit construction of several hundred apartments in the Chalmers area, currently zoned for single-family dwellings on large land parcels. To their consternation, the Chalmers Association was never able to ascertain definitely if the proposals were emanating from Ann Arbor Township or the City of Ann Arbor. A meeting with Ann Arbor Township officials proved futile. "We had a huge turnout, but the Township refused to change its plans in any way," said Avsharian.

After hearing the Chalmers statement, attorney Ball cited recent decisions by courts on the East and West coasts which have been very unsympathetic to piecemeal rezoning. Rezoning is not just a device to benefit private interests, according to those decisions.

Although it initially welcomed the R/UDAT, the Chalmers Association was not totally happy with its recommendations for high-intensity development and its apparent support of the Clark Road extension. A disgusted Avsharian told us recently, "We're just getting tired of paying more and more for a quality of life that's getting worse and worse. City, township, and other governmental groups can ignore citizens for only so long. They have their theories and studies on impact areas, internal stacking distances, and earth forms, but we fighting citizens use our common sense."

WHERE is the pressure going to come from to make townships submit their zoning power to a regional coordinating body? At this point it's anyone's guess, but at one point during the study, team members thought the answer might lie where it so often lies: economic incentives. Marilyn Thayer, County Planning Commission member, described how UATS (Urban Area Transportation System) evolved from a loosely knit group to a tightly-structured legal body with specific appointees from city, township, and county governments and ex-officio members from state, regional and federal agencies. Cities and townships began to participate seriously in UATS transportation planning in order to fulfill requirements for qualifying for U.S. Department of Transportation funding.

At first glance this would seem like a useful direction for land use planners also. "Unfortunately," said Thayer, "there is neither the funding nor the legislation for land use planning that there is for transportation." What's more, the likelihood of controls being developed for land use at either the state or federal

levels is not very high. "I find that sad and disappointing," said Thayer, "because I think it is needed and by the time people realize its necessity, we're already going to have major problems." Thayer thinks that cooperation of the sort that now exists for UATS would be a positive step, even if financial stimulation were not behind it, and she hopes that there would soon be a more realistic focus on the area.

At least for the moment, the net effect of the R/UDAT study may not be precisely what its creators intended. The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti corridor may be ripe for development, but local government reform is, at best, in the early germination stages. Thus it may be a while (if ever) before the substantive recommendations of the report can be implemented, although the report has been cited in support of two of the County Planning Commission's projects: its county-wide land use plan and its proposal to establish a park near the old mill by Dixboro Road on property currently owned by Frederick Matthei.

Is there an alternative to either stronger coordination by the County or an institutional consortium? Perhaps. If the township power structure cannot be changed from without, it is still accessible from within. Township decisions are still the result of the values and politics of the people who make them, and if elected township officials believe in land use planning for the overall public good, they will act accordingly. When campaigning for the November elections begins, it will be interesting to see if the issues raised by the R/UDAT study are addressed by candidates for township offices and if voters respond accordingly.

The R/UDAT study brings into focus some interesting conflicts that interweave through the area: the inevitability of growth versus the desire of individual property owners to maintain the status quo; the profit motives of developers and landowners versus the greater good of the general public; the desire of institutions to carefully control development yet remain fiscally solvent; the yearning for green space, natural areas and low-density development along with high levels of public services like good roads, public transport, and sewers; the desire of the individual property owner to stay on his land while forces all around him and out of his control make it more and more expensive to do so.

Perhaps the R/UDAT study's most significant contribution will be to raise the consciousness of Washtenaw County citizens regarding their local government and how they can or cannot work with it. "I do know that the study has gotten groups of people together and talking who weren't meeting with each other before," said McKelvey. "And," said Jim Walter, County Commissioner from Ypsilanti Township, "if nothing else, it will serve to focus attention on the eastern end of Washtenaw County which to some degree has been ignored in the past."

Finally, the report points up some of the real advantages that residents of this area enjoy: a beautiful river; a strong economic base; a creditable public transportation system; public-spirited institutions; and an unusually talented and diversified mix of people who continue to come up with creative solutions for making life better in Washtenaw County. •

— Jeanne Tashian

Copies of the R/UDAT report are available from the Huron Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Write c/o Michael McKelvey, President, 2200 S. Industrial Hwy, Ann Arbor 48104 or call 663-4602.

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Peter Yates

Interview with Schembechler

Michigan's Bo Schembechler tells what it takes to to keep his football team winning year after year.

Glenn E. (Bo) Schembechler, after nine years as Michigan's head football coach, has emerged as one of the country's top college coaches. His record at Michigan of 86 wins, 13 losses, and 6 ties gives him a winning percentage second only to Penn State's Joe Paterno among active coaches.

What does it take to be such a successful coach? That question was uppermost on our mind when we interviewed Bo before the season started.

Many people don't appreciate how grueling the work schedule of a college football coach is. Could you give a brief account of your work load through an entire year?

Bo: You figure your season starts the first of August. Now, the first of August, you go into staff meetings. Somewhere after the middle of August, your squad comes in.

During this period, particularly after the team arrives, you're in a seven day a week job. There is no day that you do not work a full day. After the season starts, Sunday is one of the hardest days you have, because you first of all review the films after the game, grade the films,

show the films to the players, come back after that is done in the evening to break down the next opponent. You have all the films studied and make preparation of all your plans for your next opponent. In other words, Sunday is a very, very busy day.

Every day you work at least until ten o'clock at night. Every day except Thursday night, which is the only night that we take off and go home. That's it. We're talking about from the time when the team comes in in August until the season is over.

Now, for myself, Saturday is a tough day. You get up in the morning and you begin your pregame meal, your squad meetings, and go to the game, play the game, then you either fly back, or if you're home, it still takes a couple of hours to get back to my office. The film is immediately processed. I study the film. I go in at midnight to begin taping my TV show. I don't get home until two or three Sunday morning. And I have to be right back at work Sunday.

When I come back in Sunday, I usually don't come in until noon. All of my staff by Saturday night have to have their phases of the football game completely graded. In other words, they have to

have every player graded and the film completely reviewed before we go over it together as a staff on Sunday.

So during the season, it's a seven day a week job. But that isn't the problem. Because once you get involved in the season, you're consumed by what's going on. And you don't mind it.

The killer is that you come off of the season and you immediately go into seven days a week of recruiting. Recruiting's the bear. Because you're on the road for five days, and you come back on Saturday and Sunday and entertain here, and then go right back on the road again. That goes all the way until the middle of February.

Now, if you go to a bowl game, then you compound the problem. Because the month of December is not a recruiting month entirely. You'll recruit, but you'll also be having to prepare for a bowl game. When everybody else takes a short respite over Christmas, you're out working at a bowl game.

You usually wrap up your recruiting almost entirely by the first of March. And in March, you go right into staff meetings in preparation for spring ball. Spring ball is not nearly as tough. We don't work at night then. We work from

eight in the morning until seven at night, but we don't come back at night the way we do other times.

Spring ball is finished the end of April, when school's out. So we finish spring ball, the players go into final exams, we then interview all the players, and then the month of May and early June are what we call junior recruiting months. We go back onto the road, and what we do is to talk to high school coaches throughout the areas to find out who we should be looking at next fall. We don't actively recruit the youngsters then, because that's illegal. But we do find out who they are. We'll sit down and look at junior film, we'll talk to high school coaches, we'll travel around. We get the names of the top prospects. We'll send out correspondence. We get information back on kids throughout the country.

What's harder: finding the players you want, or getting them to come to Michigan?

Getting them to come to Michigan.

Do you have an overall philosophy of recruiting?

There's way too much emphasis on recruiting. Not that it hurts the coaches, al-

"I think most of the players understand the basis of the program here: DON'T GET THE OLD MAN UPSET."

though it's exasperating. But it's definitely a detrimental effect on the kids we try and recruit. And their parents. They get an exaggerated opinion of what it's like. It's no different than the guy who signs the pro contract who thinks he's got it made 'cause he's going to make that money. Then he finds out what he's got to do to get it.

By and large, what we look for is, we try to get kids of good character. Kids that have some appreciation of the opportunity to go to a school of this caliber. Kids that are highly competitive, highly motivated. Because if they're not, Michigan is too big and too competitive for them.

How can you judge a potential player's character?

You can't for sure. You're going to make some mistakes. But you'll find out about players from coaches. Their own coaches and the coaches who've played against them. Teachers. Counselors. Alumni in the area who know the family. There are a lot of ways you find out. You get a pretty good indication.

You actually talk to school counselors?

Sure. We will actually seek him or her out—and as many people as you can in the school, even though they aren't in athletics, to find out what kind of a kid they are.

But you know, we still make mistakes. The general theory is that if you recruit thirty, which you're allowed to each year of that thirty, ten will be regulars for you. They will be the kind of guys that will be starters and good football players. Another ten will contribute. They may never

be starters, but they will contribute. They'll be solid backup people. Or they may their senior year come on and really help you. But they will contribute to the program. And ten will completely wash up. They aren't good enough. They'll be on the demonstration team, or they will drop out.

Of all the players you actively recruit to come to Michigan, how many will you get?

Probably somewhere around one out of three or four. See, we're going against all the great schools in the country—Penn State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Southern California. If you can get one out of four, you're all right.

How successful are the other Big Ten teams in recruiting top talent?

Where we might be one out of four, Illinois may be one out of six, Northwestern one out of twenty. It depends on the school.

Does any school have better recruiting success than Michigan?

It depends on the locale. Ohio State can get close to one out of two or three—in the state of Ohio. 'Cause they don't have any competition within the state, like we do. And Ohio's one of the great high school football states.

When it's all said and done, we're even up with most of the top teams. Maybe we don't have quite the talent of Ohio State or Notre Dame. And Penn State may be the best physical team in the country because of their locale. Here's Penn State sitting out in the middle of Pennsylvania, with the enormous popula-

tion of the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, New England to draw from. There're no other big time places there. So why would anybody pass there to come to Michigan? Some do it. But by and large, Penn State's got the easiest recruiting setup there is.

How can you entice a top high school player to come to Michigan?

It depends on how you try to get the edge. Some try to get it illegally.

How prevalent is that?

Probably more so in areas outside the Big Ten, except for people outside the Big Ten who come into this area to recruit. I think the Big Ten today is pretty straight-laced. There are a lot of little things some Big Ten schools do that might bother you, but I'm talking about illegal inducements to get a kid. Could be money. Could be in the form of clothes. In the South and Southwest, automobiles. It's hard for me to conceive of it, but I hear of guys laying \$500 down on the barrelhead to sign.

Our situation is different. What we try to sell is Michigan. Great school. Opportunities when you get out. When you get a degree you're going to get a good job. Football tradition. The great facilities. In fact, facilities second to none. We give you the best facilities possible. The stadium. The great exposure. A stable program. Coaching changes are not prevalent. Top-notch schedule. Opportunity to go to bowl games. All those things.

It really isn't a problem with us of getting an entree to talk to a kid. 'Cause they'll all talk to Michigan, just like they'll all talk to Notre Dame, or Ohio State, or Penn State. It doesn't mean we'll get 'em. It just means Michigan will be in the forefront. But strangely as it might seem, when it comes down to the last twenty-five kids, we may only get four or five. The rest of 'em we'll lose.

It's real tough by that point.

Is it important for you personally to talk to the parents of a player you're trying to recruit?

Yeah. See, here's the problem. If Woody Hayes goes into a home to talk to a player and his family, I've got to go, too. If Joe Paterno's there, I've got to, too. Otherwise you lose a little extra edge.

What part of the overall energy that you put into your football program goes into recruiting?

Recruiting's the hardest thing you have to do, because you're coming right off the season, just the time when a coach should have some respite. And he goes right into the damndest war that you ever saw.

What's it like being almost constantly on the road recruiting from December through February?

You're hop-scotching all over the place. Now, the other thing you have to visualize is that it ain't like it is out there now in the summer. You're going through every goddamned blizzard you ever saw in the history of mankind. The weather is terrible. Like I got locked in Cincinnati last year for three days during a storm. It's just not easy to get around at that time of the year. You're running in and out of houses all over the place.

How many kids do you personally see?

I probably see over a hundred. It's not right, but that's the name of the game. If you don't do it, you don't get the top players.

You sound bitter about the recruiting game.

Now, I enjoy working, don't get me wrong. But I sometimes resent the recruiting from the standpoint that so much of it is in vain. After I spend a lot of time on something that I don't get, by nature



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I'm bitter (laughs). If you work hard enough, you ought to get it—is my feeling.

During the season, what's your schedule like?

I'm never home earlier than ten. And I try never to stay later than midnight. But then I gotta be back here at eight o'clock in the morning, so that's why I make sure I get my sleep. What I end up doing is going home to eat after practice. Practice is over about six. By the time I check the injuries and everything, I get out of here about 6:30. So I run home, and then I make sure I'm back here no later than 7:30 or 8:00.

How are those evenings spent?

Well, particularly Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, we have film studies, getting the game plan down, scouting report out, a multitude of things. It takes a long time to really study film and devise a game plan.

You see, by the time we go over a scouting report, we know everything this team we're going to play has done from the time they lined up at the beginning of the season until the time we play them. There's no play of their's that we do not know. There's no play that hasn't been charted: when it was run, the down and distance, the hash mark, where it's located on the field. There's no guesswork. It's all been put through our computer. Everything they do and everything we do. See, we've got to scout ourselves at the same time.

Do you think Michigan fans are spoiled by the continual success of the team?

Sure they are. People fail to understand when they sit in that stadium what we went through to put that team on the field. It's unbelievable. The magnitude of the operation. The operation is big. A lot of man hours, a lot of problems. A lot of things have to happen to field that team.

You could lose three games in a season and it would be seen as a bad season.

The real fan understands that we've been fortunate. I don't care how many bowl games we're lost, we've been fortunate—we really have. And the rules have become more stringent. A lot has been done by the NCAA and the Big Ten to

"I don't see an easy-going guy as a successful football coach."



Peter Yates

According to Schembechler, a temper is a key ingredient to successful coaching, as Quarterback Rick Leach learns during a Wolverine practice.

equalize the competition. They've tried very hard to do that. That's why the goal of the Big Ten is to break the dominance of the Big Two. I mean, that's their goal. And all eight, and probably the commissioner's office and everybody else is rooting for them and doing everything they can to help 'em.

Why have you and Woody Hayes been so dominant in the Big Ten?

The story is that historically over 95 years, the two teams have been winners.

Do you think that you and Hayes put in more effort than the other coaches?

I'd like to think it's that simple—that we out-work 'em and we win. But I respect these other coaches and the programs they have. I don't think it's just that. I think

it's the fact that there are several things that I've done well. One, I've hired good coaches. This has been one of the secrets, I think. I've had excellent staff.

Also, I get great support from Canham. Great support. And, I'm in an atmosphere where football has been traditionally good. And you put all that combination together, and you work at it, and the chances of success are real good.

Does the pressure on your players of big-time college football get to be unhealthy?

We try to avoid that as much as we can. We don't go at it like: 'we gotta win, we gotta fill the stadium.' Each player is playing for Michigan and for himself. If we don't win, we're not going to completely fall apart.

We push winning. I mean, we stress

it a lot. We put a lot of pressure on the kids. But I don't think it's too much, no. And of course, most of these kids have come out of this with a good experience, because when they go into pro ball and they compare it to Michigan, there's no comparison.

How is that?

The class of our program. The facilities. The equipment. The medical attention. The way we travel. The way we coach. They don't get that quality of attention in pro ball. The greatest experiences they've had are here at Michigan, not in pro ball.

How do you get your team up for a game?

Well, I think you have to start well before a game in terms of how to motivate them. We pick out certain games to point for. The games that we have lost during the regular season have not been ones we have pointed for—that tells you something.

You cannot have a team go out there highly emotional—recklessly going after victory—eleven times a year. You can't do it. Some of the games have to be won because you have a superior team and you have certain goals you want to achieve. You can play highly emotionally four times a season—that's about it.

Who will you be pointing for this coming season?

We've got to give certain emphasis to Minnesota. And Michigan State is always a big game for us. Michigan State we never let up on. Michigan State and Ohio State are fundamental. Absolutely fundamental.

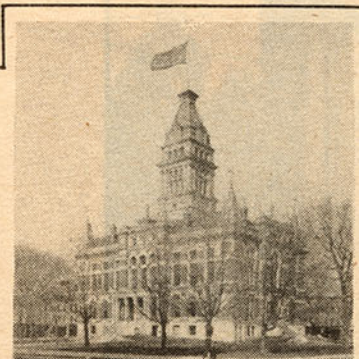
Now we never, never, ever point to a non-conference game. Last year, because of the magnitude of the game and because they were second or third in the nation, Texas A&M came in here and we were up for the game, but that wasn't

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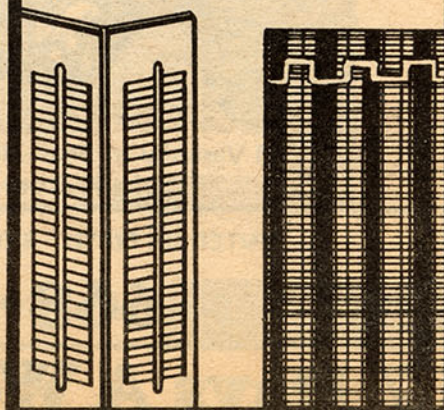
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"You cannot have a team go out there highly emotional — recklessly going after victory — eleven times a year. . . . You can play highly emotionally four times a season — that's about it."

one we really pushed for.

What about the games when you know your team isn't up. What do you do then?

Coaches have been caught in situations in which they mentally want to do it, but they aren't capable of doing it—they just don't have the proper mental approach.

Now, we have always stressed other objectives in a game, which has helped us in a lower priority game. We set up goals we want to achieve, both offensively and defensively. It helps to shoot for something other than just enough points to win a game. In other words, we've got to achieve so many yards rushing, so many yards passing, so many first downs. A limited number of turnovers and penalty yardage. All these things add up. And by trying to achieve those objectives, we have to try hard.

Can winning be overstressed?

Football's the type of game that takes so much to prepare for and play, that if you're not winning, you wonder if it's really worth it, you know what I mean? It's not like going out and playing a game of tennis and you don't win and you say,

'Well, I'll go back and play again tomorrow.' In college football, you're going out with eleven shots a year, and in order to do that you've got to train the year around.

Are you emotionally up most of the time, or are there times when you wonder what the point of it all is?

I think that just like everybody else, I've got my ups and downs. I've just got a lot more ups. And if I'm down, it doesn't last long.

See, a nice thing about it is that you really don't have the luxury of getting away from it if you lose a game. Within two or three hours, you're back to work. You're preparing for the next one. You don't have time to be down. You just can't do that.

Do your assistant coaches spend the same amount of time you do working?

Oh, yeah.

It sounds like you virtually have to dedicate your life to football to be successful as a coach.

Yeah, you've gotta dedicate yourself. It's a tough thing in terms of handling your

responsibilities at home, because I mean you are really goin' most of the time.

In a year's time, it seems you're away from home considerably more than you're there.

Oh, yeah. That's why May, June, and July are important because you've got to get away with your family. You've got to do something with them. And you've still, even then, got a lot of football obligations in May and June.

So year 'round, your mind is on the team.

Yeah, I don't think in coaching you can be successful by standing back or being aloof. You've got to be right in there. I learned that a long time ago. The biggest problem you have in a job like this is learning to say no. 'Cause everybody wants demands on your time. And if you come to the point that you're gone most of the time doing this and that, then you lose touch with your team, and when you lose touch, then things start getting away from you.

How structured do you make your day?

I've got a schedule. But the one thing that will interrupt your schedule is any time there's a personnel problem involv-

stand the basis of the program here: *don't get the old man upset*. If you do [laughs], he's gonna come down heavy on you.

Managing your team is tough, there isn't any question. That's the biggest problem you have today. First of all, from the disciplinary standpoint of handling a hundred kids all year long. I mean, you're with 'em all year long doing something in football. And when they go home in the summer, they gotta go through all these pages of the workout programs and all of that, and you gotta make sure they're doing all that.

How can you make sure when they're at home?

You test 'em when they come back. Right away. The fastest way of getting eliminated from opportunity to play is to come back in August and not pass the test.

Both you and Woody Hayes have the reputation of having a temper. You're both very successful coaches. Do you think a temper is part of the reason for your success?

I don't see an easy-going guy as a successful football coach. I don't see him being an effective leader. I think a guy's gotta

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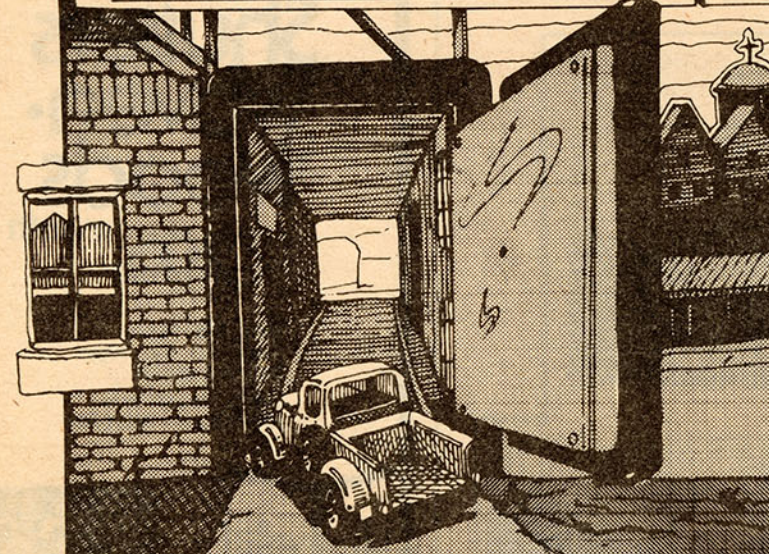
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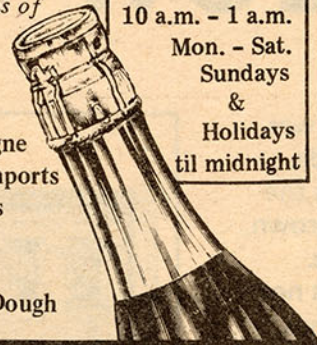
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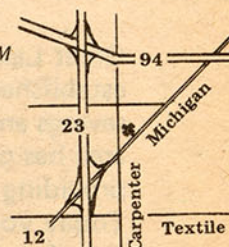


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Paul Brown—I don't believe anybody I know of who could be tougher than he is. Now, he would not be loud, but when he was ready to come down on you, with those beady eyes of his, he'd lay it in there.

When you first meet with your players in August, do you come on heavy—really lay down the law?

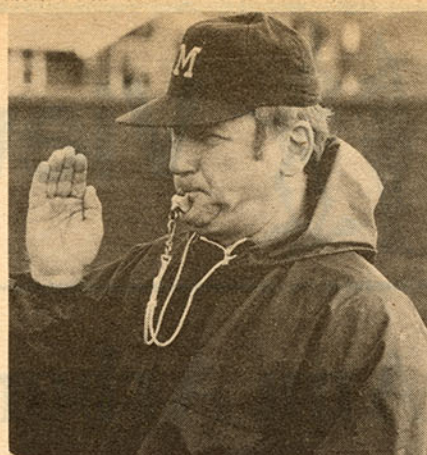
Yeah. But invariably there'll be several who won't heed that warning. That's just the way it is. But by and large the kids that come in here are good, straight, tough kids. They want to get a degree, they want to play in that stadium, they want to play Michigan football. And they have a great experience doing it. That's by and large. We're talking about 25 of the 30 that come in.

But invariably there'll be four or five in there that you'll have a problem with. That usually means that there are a dozen kids out of a hundred who absolutely fail to realize the importance of going to school, attending classes, getting a degree, doing the things you have to do to get the job done.

If they do it the way it's supposed to be done, it's a great experience for 'em. 'Cause I'll tell you, the sense of accomplishment from doing something as difficult as playing football for Michigan has got to be enormous.

Why has Michigan had such bad luck in the Rose Bowl?

I don't think there's a simple explanation.



here. Because any time you take a team on the road for two weeks, there's no way you can prepare them mentally to play. You can prepare them physically, but not mentally. We're out there too long. We're out there over Christmas.

When you're out there in California for two weeks, the first week things go along real well. There are a lot of things to do and it's new and exciting. But by the second week, the players are saying, 'Coach, let's play the game and go home.' That's the worst damn attitude you can possibly have. The players will say, 'I'm just tired of this hotel, laying around here, working out, I've seen everything. Let's play the game and go home.'

See, we live out in the Huntington-Sheridan Hotel in Pasadena. Pasadena is a retirement community. There is no excitement there at that hotel. The people who live there permanently are retired. You got it? So if you decide to go

have to be the size of an entire football field. And it could be used for a lot of other things.

Of course, it hasn't just been the training problem that has caused us to lose. I think the Oklahoma game we played a few years ago, we played a team that was superior. I think we played a Southern Cal team two years ago that had superior personnel. I think the team we played last year we should have beat. But still, in all these bowl games, we haven't played well.

Could you tell last year your players weren't up before the Rose Bowl game?

Oh, hell yes. You could tell even in the warmup before the game.

What about the season coming up? Who's toughest on your schedule?

Our biggest problem is our defense—whether our defensive secondary and our outside linebackers are going to be good enough to give us the defense we need to win. Our defense did not play well in the last Rose Bowl. They should have played well enough to keep us in that game. They didn't do it. So our defense is the key to it. If our defense is good, I think our offense will move the ball.

Schedulewise, it's no different than what we've played before. Except that we do have a lot of the really tough games on the road. We play Notre Dame on the road. We play Ohio State on the road. Those will be tough. Michigan State here will be very, very tough. And we can

see where Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Purdue are going to be good teams.

It's about the same schedule we've had before, with the addition of Notre Dame, which will be as tough a non-conference game as we've ever played. Especially playing in South Bend.

For us, the Big Ten championship is still the big thing. And unfortunately, we're in a position in which we have won that thing enough to look on it as less important than the bowl game. But the bowl game is not nearly as important as winning the Big Ten championship, in my opinion.

"Football's the type of game that takes so much to prepare for and play, that if you're not winning, you wonder if it's really worth it."

I think we fail to realize that it's a new season. It's not the season that has just passed—the reason being that we have no effective way of training here in Ann Arbor during December.

Now, if we wanted to have a better opportunity to win in the bowl games, we need facilities here so we can practice

anywhere, it takes you an hour or two hours to get anywhere. It just is not a good setup.

Would you like facilities for training here in December?

I'd like to. I'd like to have a bubble in which you could practice. It wouldn't

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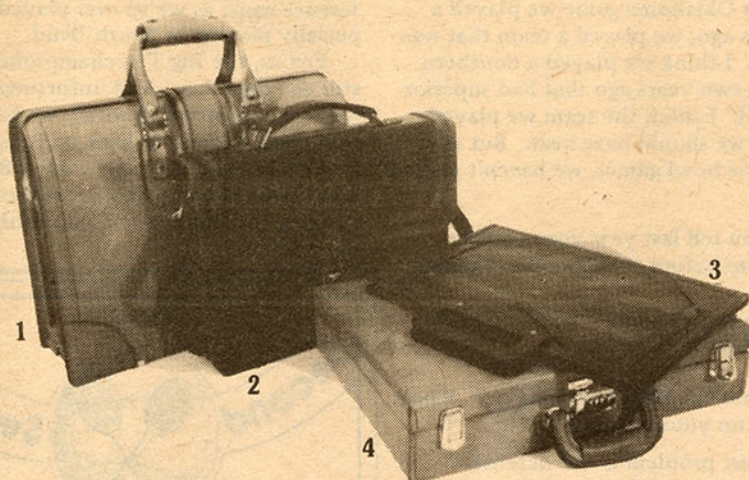
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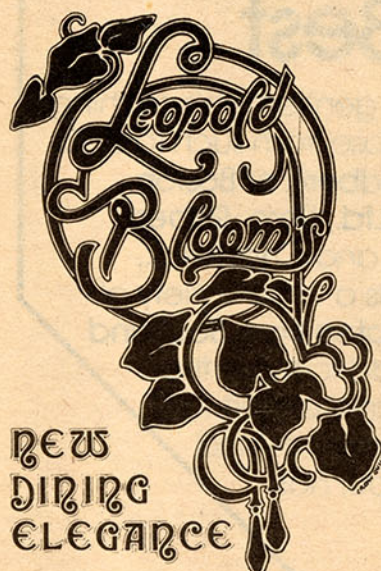


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Viewpoints

Ann Arbor's Sister City

By Lou Belcher



Lou Belcher is mayor of Ann Arbor.

TO all Ann Arborites—our sister city of Tuebingen sends you greetings! Having just returned from Tuebingen's 900th year birthday celebration, I thought there might be some interest in knowing a little more about Tuebingen, West Germany.

First, our sister city has about 70,000 citizens; of these 19,000 are students at one of Europe's best and most famous universities—the University of Tuebingen. Tuebingen is a truly beautiful city graced by many fine old buildings, parks, trees and open spaces. Restoration is a top priority and there is little doubt that Tuebingen's citizens are justifiably proud of this oasis just 20 miles south of Germany's Detroit—Stuttgart.

The city is governed by a City Council of 48 members (yes! count them) who are elected to five-year terms and represent five political parties. They have a full-time Lord Mayor who is elected at large for an eight-year term, and two Vice Mayors who are the equivalent of our city administrator. They are elected by the Council.

"Most Tuebingen citizens live in apartments. Single family homes range in price from \$200,000 to \$500,000."

Tuebingen's city budget is 60 million dollars compared with our 25 million, and they have over 1500 city employees compared with our 860. Much of their financial support comes from the state and federal governments. They have no police departments—the county and state police have jurisdiction in the city. They also have only four professional firemen; the rest of the force is made up of volunteers. Most Tuebingen citizens live in apartments. Single-family homes range in price from \$200,000 to \$500,000. And if you can believe this—traffic in Tuebingen on a Friday afternoon is five times worse than here in Ann Arbor! I made a wrong turn and it took me over one hour to get back to the point of error.

But enough of facts and figures. The

900th birthday party put on by Tuebingen was something else. Everyone seemed to have forgotten any troubles they might have had and joined in the festivities that spanned nine days of activities and involved 300,000 people. The central city was virtually roped off and on any single evening there were several different festivals going on with different bands, music and dancing—all the way from Dixieland and jazz to German classical music. Here I should say that the Washtenaw Community College jazz band was a big hit. They can really play American jazz, and the packed crowds they drew were a fine tribute to their talents. I was extremely proud of them. Needless to say, there was plenty of local draft beer, wine, soft drinks, chicken and sausage available at all hours.

Tuebingen also staged its first parade in fifty years. It lasted over two hours and the marching units came from towns and organizations from all over southern Germany.

But I guess when I think of Tuebingen, I think mostly of her wonderful people whom I now know as close friends. These are people who welcome you as a long-lost brother or sister, who are warm, friendly and sincere. We were invited to so many homes to visit that if I stayed for a month I could not have visited each one.

Not only are our two cities so much alike (Tuebingen even has a north campus), they also share many family ties, since Ann Arbor was settled by many German immigrants from the Stuttgart and Tuebingen area. We are now exchanging students and visitors at an ever-increasing rate, and we hope this keeps up.

If the state departments of each country in the world would step aside and let the citizens handle international relationships, I would bet that brotherhood and peace would flourish.

Happy birthday, Tuebingen!!



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Council and the Bureaucracy

By Leslie Morris

ELECTED officials' influence on the actions of government is not always overwhelming, especially when the budget is tight. As a participant in and observer of the governmental process, I find the patterns of bureaucratic response endlessly fascinating, if frustrating. Here is a tiny example:

In a pleasant, tree-lined older neighborhood in my ward (the second), along parts of Ann, Catherine and Ingalls Streets, a visitor might notice something not found in any other Ann Arbor neighborhood. Along each curb is a regular row of ugly upright metal pipes cemented into the ground. These ranks of pipes are beheaded parking meters. Until last year, the massive brick building visible at the end of Ingalls Street housed St. Joseph's hospital which had an acute parking problem. Hospital officials had persuaded the city to put parking meters on nearby residential streets, a solution bitterly resented for years by neighborhood residents.

Last year the hospital completed its move to new and larger quarters outside of town. My second ward Council colleague, Earl Greene, and I prepared to celebrate. Our resolution directing removal of these hated symbols of government exploitation passed Council unanimously. Councilman Greene and I believed that through us, the people had spoken and had won a small victory.

Fourteen months later, I asked the Director of the Streets, Traffic and Parking Department when the removal of the meters might be completed. I was told this had already happened. I explained that only the coin-collecting heads were removed (raising the suspicion in some quarters that it would be only too easy to restore them); the rows of pipes that had supported them remained.

The director suggested:

1. The pipes were not parking meters, so the council resolution had already been complied with.

2. The pipes were cemented into the ground, and could not be removed by his department's trucks.

3. The pipes caused no traffic safety problem, so their removal could not be given priority.

"Whether for good or ill, most of what our city government does cannot possibly be controlled by City Council."

I responded:

1. The pipes were part of the meter installations and the resolution had intended their removal.

2. Safety problems should certainly have priority, but I had waited a year before even raising the issue. Moreover, I was not asking for immediate removal, only for an estimate of the further expected delay, and was prepared to accept

anything reasonable.

3. The department would probably respond eventually to future resolutions of Council involving non-safety matters, for instance requests to install new parking meters, and so in fairness should respond to this one.

The director said he could not guarantee that the removal would be completed in two or three more years. "How many more years, then," I asked, "a hundred?" The director said he would get an estimate of the cost involved. I do not know if these meters will ever be completely removed, or how to cause this action.

What do I hope Ann Arbor citizens learn from this very minor and inconclusive incident?

Governmental directives must be very carefully worded. For instance the parking meter resolution, which was the first I ever wrote, should have included a complete definition of the term "parking meter." This is one of the reasons government paper work includes so many maddening details and uses up so much paper.

Whether for good or ill, most of what



Leslie Morris represents the Second Ward on City Council.

our city government does cannot possibly be controlled by City Council. City Council members are parttime amateurs. When we request a change in city policy, or some governmental action in accordance with what we believe to be the will of the people, we simply don't have the time or knowledge of many necessary details to cause the action to happen. How city government is actually controlled, and in whose interests the many details are actually arranged, is a very complex question.



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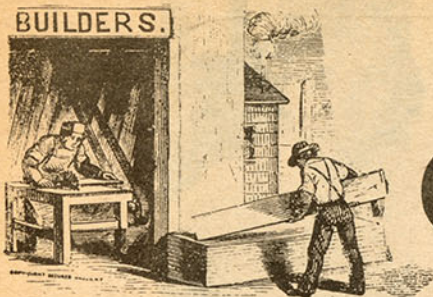
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Changes

Downtown Housing

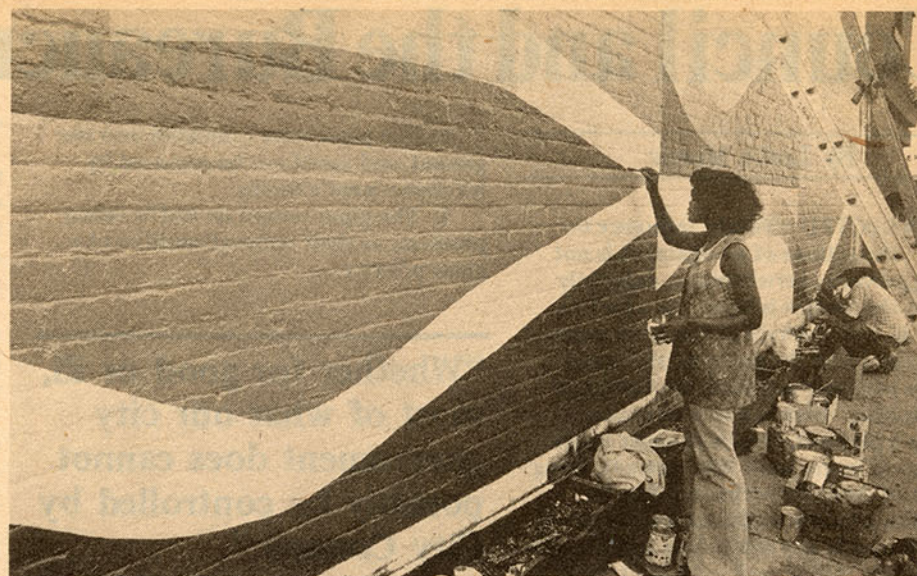
After years of talk about the desirability of more downtown housing, the city now confronts two proposals for housing in the Packard-Main area. Local landlord-developer Dan Kaplan has offered a plan for over 300 units of mixed-income housing plus two levels of shops and offices and five levels of parking, with the housing to be subsidized under HUD Section 8 funds. But construction of the 10-story project between Main and Ashley at the intersection of Packard depends on a complex series of circumstances coming together: that the city land acquired for the dormant but not totally dismissed extension of Packard be virtually given to the project; that a city-financed parking structure be built to defray the site development costs and provide parking for residents; and that HUD approve the plan and supply the requisite financing.

A project more likely to be realized is the city's own proposal for HUD-subsidized public housing for the elderly, to be built on the existing city parking lot at Packard and Main on the east side of Main Street just across from Kaplan's proposed project. Housing Director Harry Kerr submitted the proposal to HUD last

year, and HUD has already set aside funds for a 60-unit project according to a complicated formula that allocated about \$25,000 per one-bedroom unit plus more money for land acquisition, site development and common areas. The project could cost up to \$2,000,000, according to Marc Rueter of the City Planning Department. The project would be owned and managed by the city, as Miller Manor is.

Because downtown parking is a priority item for City Council, Council would probably require any project on the site to replace the 116 public parking spaces now provided there. Such parking would have to be financed by the city. It is uncertain whether HUD will approve mixing elderly housing with public parking facilities; initially the HUD regional contact seemed dubious about the idea.

Preliminary plans for the elderly housing project will be presented by consulting architects Colvin-Robinson Associates in early September. Then the city will assemble a preliminary program to submit to HUD, and HUD will respond to the city's proposal. HUD has set a March, 1979 deadline for beginning construction.



Peter Yates

Chris Greer and Kevan Wilson painting the Pretzel Bell's Fourth Avenue wall.

Colorful Walls

Three brightly-colored abstract designs have appeared on downtown walls this summer: one on the east side of Schlenker Hardware, one on the Elks' south wall, and one on the Fourth Avenue side of the Pretzel Bell, which covers up the deteriorated Bicentennial mural. The mural project is part of the federally-funded SPEDY program of CETA (the Comprehensive Employment Training Act). SPEDY stands for Special Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Youth, and gives jobs to 15 to 21-year-olds and to their previously unemployed supervisors.

Artist Susan Farer directed and supervised the program, along with Jim Shumaker. It started with classes for the teenage participants on what makes a good mural. (It has to relate harmoniously to the surrounding environment.) De-

signs were arrived at through joint student-supervisor efforts, with the building owners making the final decisions. Carolyn Freeman, Shila Jenkins and Bridget Smiley participated in part of the program; Kevan Wilson and Chris Greer worked the entire summer, scraping, priming, mixing the colors, (many of which gradually lighten in the design), and painting the final design.

"You have to have a steady hand and keep your mind on what you're doing," says Chris Greer, a ninth-grader at Tappan Junior High. "It takes time and patience to draw lines. You have to be interested in it." She found the project rewarding and expects to do more with art.

The murals, painted with Sherwin-Williams "bulletin" colors and protected with a finishing gloss, are expected to last about ten years.

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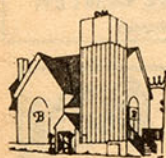
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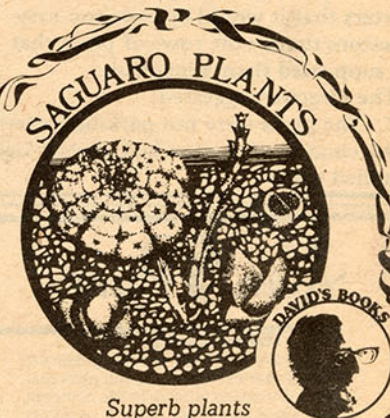
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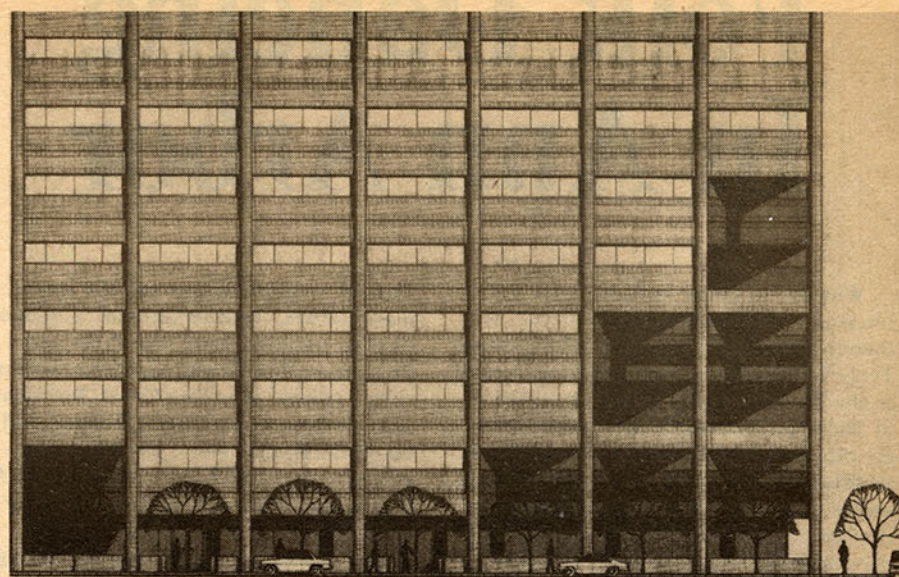
An eight-story office building to be erected on the temporary Ecology Park at Main and Huron is the biggest development so far in the current downtown real estate boom. Ann Arbor attorney Leo Angelos and Chicago real estate developer Phil Teinowitz are the principal partners in the \$5,000,000 project. Financing, which is from out-of-town sources, is already arranged, and the site plan has been favorably reviewed by the Planning Commission. It now awaits site plan approval from City Council.

Teinowitz is a partner in Fleetwood Realty of Chicago. He is a well-known Chicago office building developer responsible for 2 North LaSalle, the Continental Bank Building, and other 20-stories-and-up high-rises.

The Ann Arbor project may be small potatoes for Teinowitz, but for Ann Arborite Angelos it's a thrilling adventure. "I'm having more fun than anybody." He gets to deal with architects Hobbs &

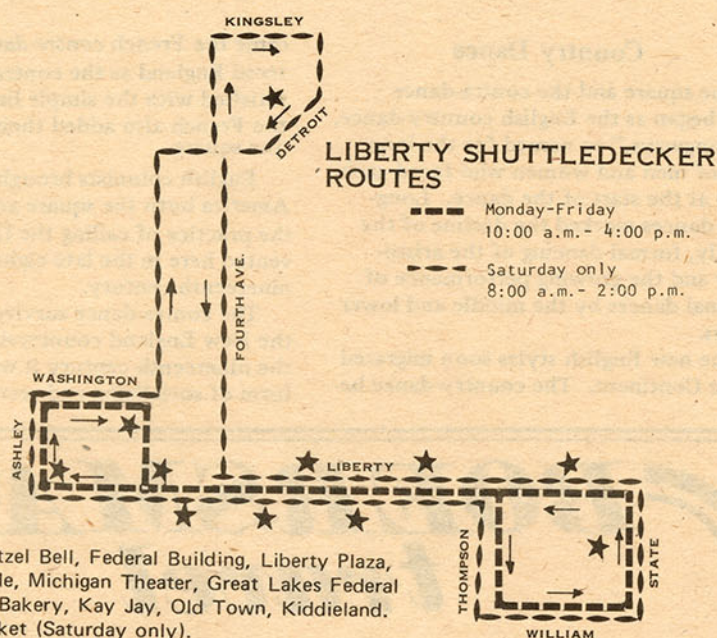
Black about the details: the sunken perimeter walkway lined with trees; the bricks (they'll be warm and homey as opposed to glitter, Angelos said); and the history display in the lobby, which will include photos over the years of the 1862 building which had been at that location (initially called The Gregory House, and known for decades as the Municipal Court Building until it burned in 1972). The property is in the very oldest part of Ann Arbor; in fact, it includes lot number one in the first plat book.

The first two levels will be commercial space; the office space will be "high quality" with rents (as yet undetermined) varying according to improvements. A third of the space is already reserved, but names of tenants have not been made public. Construction is likely to start after the first of the year. It will involve demolition of the adjoining building, now occupied by Wilderness Outfitters.



No. 1 North Main as seen from the Huron St. side. Cut back corner allows light to reach landscaped plaza. Architects: Hobbs & Black.

Liberty Shuttledecker



As the Liberty Shuttledecker enters its third month of operation, you may still be wondering just where it goes and where it stops. We have included an up-to-date route and schedule map for that purpose, along with a progress report from Ann Arbor Tomorrow Director Carol Sullivan. An urban planner by training, Sullivan finds herself in the unanticipated position of running a bus line. "I know more about diesel engines than I ever wanted to," she says. Once the London Transport double-deckers arrived in Ann Arbor, the supplier in Virginia became reluctant to assume responsibility for their being in dependable operating condition as promised. As a result, title to the third bus, which is not yet reliably working, has not officially been assumed by Ann Arbor Tomorrow.

With two buses running, there's a 9 to 10 minute headway between buses. Sullivan hopes to extend the route to South University without lengthening headway when the third bus joins the fleet.

The Shuttledecker is a private operation run by a non-profit corporation es-

tablished by Ann Arbor Tomorrow. Its purpose is to attract people downtown and provide convenient transportation within the downtown area. Advertising revenues, passenger donations, and leasing fees support the project. Each exterior advertising panel costs about \$300 a month. Busses may be leased for special events at \$50 an hour including driver, with a minimum of two hours.

"Ridership is pretty good," reports Sullivan. It builds up from a low of 200 on Monday to over 400 on Saturday, and it's expected to increase in fall. But passenger donations have averaged only seven cents, three cents less than expected.

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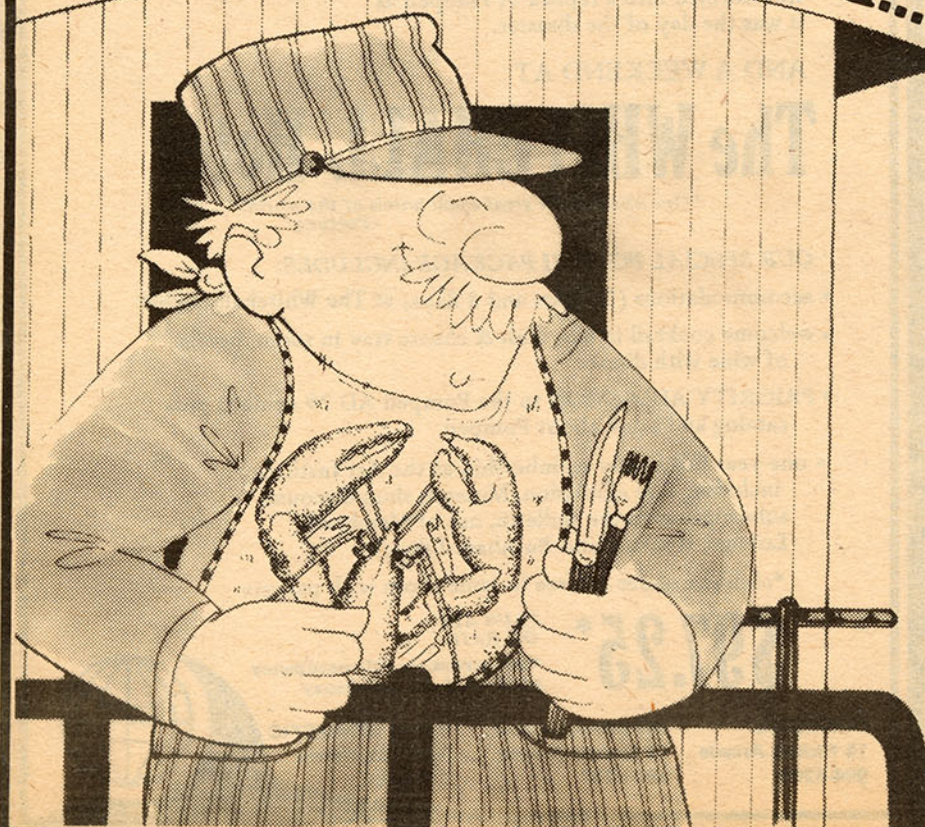
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Folk Dancing In Ann Arbor

Why are so many in Ann Arbor interested in folk dancing these days? A theory advanced by long-time folk dancer Terry Friedman, a computer programmer at the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, relates the new enthusiasm for ethnic dance to larger cultural trends. In this view, one product of our affluent society has been an increasing awareness that its consumption-oriented patterns of life and leisure don't define the limits of human welfare. As this attitude has become more and more a part of the conventional wisdom, folk dancing, among other things, has flourished. It is a wholesome, economical form of recreation and socializing and a meaningful form of self-expression.

Phyllis Weikart teaches six to nine folk dance courses each term in the Physical Education Department at the U-M. Having watched the folk dance curriculum rise and fall and rise again over the years she notes a greater willingness by men to dance, part of larger social changes in sex roles. Weikart also attributes the interest in ethnic dance to the greater interest in ethnicity in general. Ethnic groups whose traditional culture once made them the objects of discrimination now find society taking an interest in their cultures.

One effect of the new American interest in ethnicity is that some dances are being preserved in this country while they are dying out in their countries of origin

through modernization and the spread of mass culture. Pauline Skinner, a loan officer at National Bank and Trust and a first-generation Greek-American, works with a troupe of young Greek-Americans who perform at the Greek Festival and the Multi-Ethnic Fair. The Fair, sponsored by the Ann Arbor Multi-Ethnic Alliance, also witnessed performances by Irish-, Polish-, German-, African- and Native American dance troupes, among others. Robin Ackerman, who co-chairs the University Folk Dance Club this year, has studied ethnic dance in her graduate program in ethnomusicology at the U-M. Folk Dance Club members, for the most part, have no ancestral connection to the dances, she says.

There is also a growing interest in maintaining American folk dance tradition. Vinnie Tufo's interest in folk music has extended to a U-M master's degree in ethnomusicology, and he wrote his thesis on contra-dancing in New England. However, he is quick to emphasize that his competence as a contra-dance fiddler comes from having learned it first-hand from musicians in New England.

Whatever their motivation, Ann Arborites interested in participating in ethnic dance do not lack opportunities, as the following survey of folk dance clubs, classes and instructors indicates.

This increasingly popular pastime



Jennie Michos, Stephanie Savas and Theo Michos are among the young Greek dancers who perform at the Ethnic Festival and Greek Festival.

Country Dance

The square and the contra-dance both began as the English country-dance, or "longways," so named for the long lines of men and women who faced each other at the start of the dance. Longways dances marked the decline of the courtly, formal dancing of the aristocracy and the growing performance of national dances by the middle and lower classes.

The new English styles soon migrated to the Continent. The country-dance be-

came the French *contre-danse* and reentered England as the contra-dance. Unsatisfied with the simple lines of couples, the French also added their own form, the square.

English colonists brought to North America both the square and the contra; the practice of calling the figures was invented here in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

The contra-dance survived mainly in the New England countryside, where in the nineteenth century it was the main form of socializing and recreation. Any

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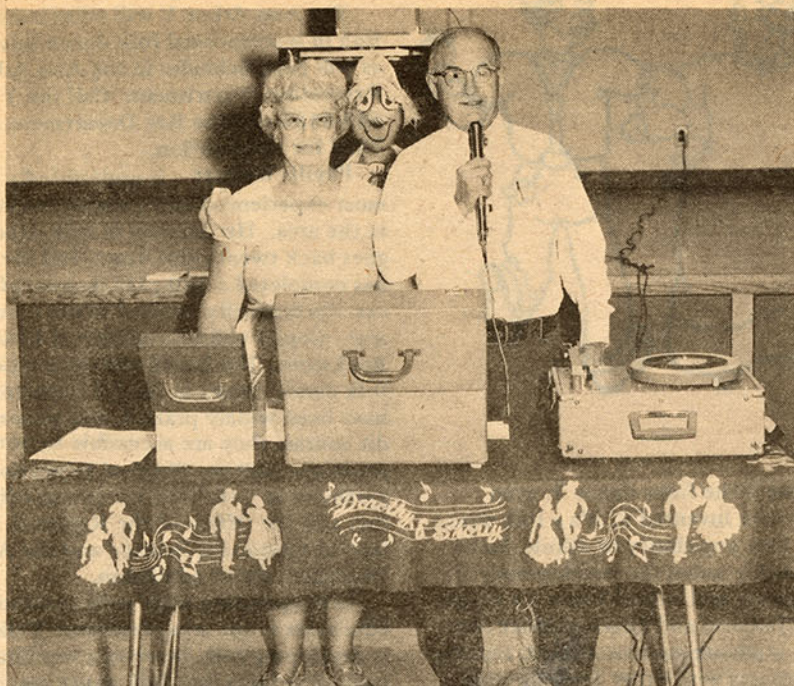
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Shorty and Dorothy Hoffmeyer have called for Ann Arbor area square dances for many years. Now retired from other work, they call for Ann Arbor Recreation Department classes, for the Swingin' A's Square Dance Club, and for several senior citizens' groups.

town worthy of the name had a dance hall built with a "spring floor," which flexed to the rhythm of the dancers and thus aided the dance. Amid the huskings, raisings, sheep-shearings and other aspects of a simple way of life, the contra dance flourished.

By the 1920's, however, contra-dancing was dying out. Ralph Page, a famous New England caller, was among those responsible for keeping the contra-dance tradition alive and seeing it into the present revival. *The Country Dance Book*, which Page co-authored with Beth Tolman in 1937, states the Country Dance Philosophy and relates the requirements

of country dance to a humane way of life.

It concludes, "so we hereby nominate the Country Dance Plan as the first crocus in the recovery of civilization from its self-poisoning."

The Ann Arbor Contra-Dance Band, with Debbie Low calling, Vinnie Tufo on fiddle, Warren Steel on hammer dulcimer and "anyone else who shows up," will play for a series of contra dances starting in late September. Call Debbie Low at 665-0040 for details. The University Folklore Society may also sponsor a series of country dances this fall. Call Dave Murphy at 994-0622.



Suheyly has become a nationally-known authority on danse orientale. She teaches at Art Worlds and the "Y" and leads a dance troupe.

Square Dance

Shorty and Dottie Hoffmeyer are Ann Arbor natives, now retired, who have been square dancing in Ann Arbor and around the country for fifty years. They danced contra and square dances with Ralph Page and other great New England callers, and remember one dance for 2,500 couples at Amherst College in Massachusetts that wreaked havoc on the football field on which it was held.

As the Hoffmeyers tell it, the modern Western square dance is a relatively recent invention. It bears only slight resemblance to the early New England square dance, having been modified and developed as the settlers pushed westward. The modern square dance first took shape thirty to forty years ago due to the work of Lloyd Shaw, who began notating and standardizing the dances of his native Colorado and the West.

A chief difference between old-time and modern Western square dancing is that in old-time dancing the figures required one couple to move around the square, thus demonstrating the dance to the other couples, while in modern dancing all four couples are active simultaneously. For this, instruction is required. Also, as the new style appeared, square dancing began moving out of its rural milieu and into the cities, where it now thrives, and the whole scene has experienced a thorough professionalization.

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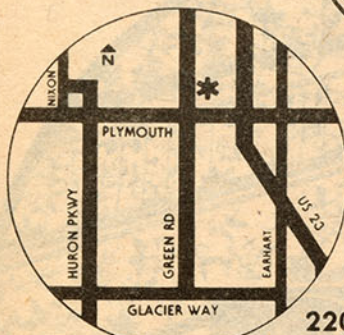
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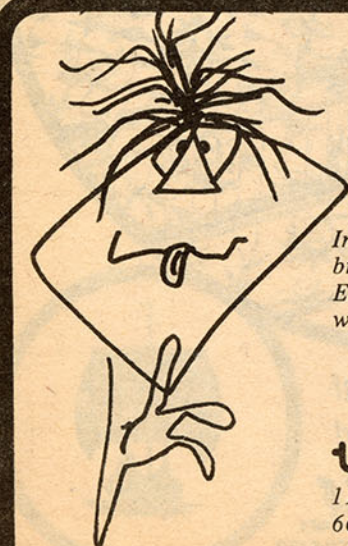
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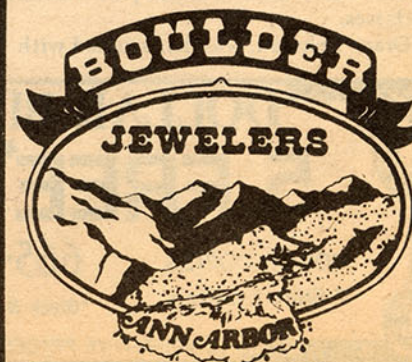
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the floor moving through a keen sense of the mood of the dancers and an expert knowledge of a wide repertoire. There are now more than a few nationally-known callers who work full-time and make a decent living at it; one such, Ken Bower, will call a dance for Ann Arbor's Swinging A's in September. But the success of square dancing has not spoiled it as a social vehicle. Shorty Hoffmeyer likes to point out that "a handshake is part of every dance."

The Hoffmeyers will teach square dancing in the Ann Arbor Recreation Department this year. (Call the Rec Department at 994-2326 for details.) They will also call dances for the Swinging A's, who meet at Forsythe School on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, starting September 23. Call Larry Hinkley at 971-1188 for details.

The A-Squares, A U-M club which also dances modern Western style, meets every Friday at 7 in the ballroom of the Michigan Union. At the start of the first sessions lessons will be given. Their caller, Jim Baker, is a member of the Michigan Square Dance Leaders Association. For more information, contact Suma Datta at 764-9711.

Danse Orientale

"Belly dance" is a Western misnomer for the women's dance common to the Middle East. As performed in the West, the dance usually involves ritual and folk elements of many regions of the Midwest. It is best described by a general term, danse orientale.

In much traditional dancing of the Balkans, Western Europe, and the Middle East, the dancer holds the spine erect and the abdomen in, and emphasizes fancy leg- and footwork.

But the movements of danse orientale reflect an entirely different set of aesthetic conventions from Western ones. The abdomen and lower spine define the center where the basic movements take place, and from which movements emanate outward to the hips, chest, shoulders, arms, neck and head, perhaps remaining isolated there momentarily but returning eventually to the center in a fluid, cyclical manner. The dance is spacious in variety but compact in form, like the arabesque, and expresses a wide variety of moods and emotions with power and subtlety.

Under the professional name of Suheylyla, Kate McGowan teaches danse orientale at Art Worlds. A prominent authority on her art in the U.S., she has studied it in its native element. She has published a book, *The Ancient and Enduring Art—Danse Orientale*, and contributed to *Arabesque* and other dance and culture journals, including a section for the *Encyclopedia of World Folk Dance*, which will be published soon by Doubleday.

Suheylyla began dancing in New York in the fifties while studying modern dance under Martha Graham. Danse orientale was, she says, "a logical next step" geographically, in that she had already done Balkan dances. Today her troupe Ta' Amullat Fi Buhayrit Al Zaman ("Reflections in the Pool of Time") has performed extensively, with popular local appearances at the Art Fair and Multi-Ethnic Fair. The troupe's title reflects its repertoire, which includes ritual and folk elements from many regions of the Mideast. Contact Art Worlds, 994-8400, for more information about performances or classes.

Grace Lehman, who has studied with

Suheylyla and others, will also teach danse orientale at the Ann Arbor Y. Call the Y at 663-0536 for more information.

Morris Dance

The Morris Dance as we know it has been danced in England since at least the fifteenth century and reflects pre-Christian rites of spring. The name probably comes from a custom the dancers once had (and have, in some parts of England) of blacking their faces with soot. The only dark-skinned people known to Europeans were the Moors, and Moorish became corrupted to Morris.

The Morris is a graceful and dignified, yet vigorous and robust dance. Handkerchiefs fly and bells jingle to the fiddle, concertina and pipe.

Parts of the Morris dance reflect its origins. In the sword dance the decapitation of sacrificial animals is reenacted; the team leader, or squire, is the modern counterpart of the ceremonial leader; the bells, which once served to discourage undesirable spirits, now emphasize the steps.

After an unsuccessful attempt four or five years ago, the Ann Arbor Morris team got started in earnest in 1976. The first year the team wasn't complete and lacked musicians, but since its performance at the 1977 Medieval Festival, membership has increased and musicians have joined. This year the team performed at Greenfield Village, at the Art Fair and Medieval Festival, and attended both the Marlboro and Toronto Ales.

The Morris dance is a performance that demands a little more than simple social dancing. Team members spend a modest sum on costumes; the essential steps aren't difficult to learn, but dances take long to perfect, and practices are held at least weekly. But the commitment required leads to a team spirit that many dancers find an important and rewarding part of the experience. For more information on participation or performances, call Squire Annie Miller at 475-7879.

International Folk Dance

Israeli folk dance resembles some international folk dance, with more use of the total body. But Israeli dance is unique in that it has been created in the last thirty years, choreographed from basic steps which have folk origins. This has led to a debate over just what constitutes a folk dance. The consensus has



been that if the folks dance it, even though they invented it, it's a folk dance.

The new popularity of ethnic dance has probably aided the development of Israeli dance and helped foster an awareness of Judaism and Israel. Cindee Howard, a graduate student at U-M, reports that contacts with other Jews through folk dancing have led her to study Hebrew and have a desire to travel to Israel. She and Ron Michaels will teach Israeli folk dance on Sunday afternoons at B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation. Call Hillel at 663-3336 for details.

Los Hijos de Aztlan is a Mexican-American dance troupe, the Sons of Azlan, Aztlan being an Aztec word for the Southwest. They dance in the Jalisco style common to Guadalajara in northern Mexico, and welcome new members, non-Chicanos included. Call Jim Luzod at 995-0817.

The University Folk Dance Club, which has been around for some fifteen years, provides international folk dance instruction at the start of its Friday evening sessions, but by the end of the evening the total neophyte is like to spend more time watching than dancing. Co-

chaired this year by Robin Ackerman and Tomas Chavez, the club will meet Friday evening from 8-12 at the Central Campus Recreation Building on South Forest.

The Ann Arbor Y will offer instruction in international folk dance this fall, as will Nina Scheider in the Ann Arbor Recreation Department. Call the Y at 663-0536 and the Rec Department at 994-2326 for information.

Phyllis Weikart is undoubtedly the most experienced and versatile instructor in the area. Her interest in folk dancing goes back twenty-five years, and she has completed a 320-page manual of dances, rhythmically notated in her own system. Copies will be available at Ulrich's Bookstore. Her Israeli and international folk dance classes in the PE Department have been widely praised, and as non-credit courses they are accessible to non-students. Call the Physical Education Department at 746-1432 for course offerings and the Office of the Registrar, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, 764-6280, about admission.

In cooperation with early childhood educators in the area, Professor Weikart is developing folk dance as a teaching tool. She finds that folk dance can help by putting subjects such as arithmetic, geography and languages into a context children can experience. Weikart first became interested in folk dance instruction while teaching large physical education classes and sees it as an enjoyable way of keeping fit. Her most rewarding work, she says, is with senior citizens, who need and thrive on the socializing and exercise. Folk dance is, in her words, a "cradle to the grave activity."

In his classic *World History of the Dance*, Curt Sachs wrote "... in the life of primitive peoples and ancient civilizations, nothing approached the dance in importance." In Ann Arbor and across the nation, perhaps Americans are beginning to rediscover some vital magic.

— Harry Clark

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The Michigan Theater

A look back at the grand opening of Ann Arbor's most splendid picture palace.

In an age when many big-city movie theaters of the 1920's have been relegated to showing cheap thrillers and porn, or even demolished, Ann Arbor is extremely fortunate to have a fine example of Hollywood opulence in the Michigan Theater. As the picture palace becomes recognized as the marvelous product of a by-gone era, interest in restoring viable remaining examples has burgeoned. Many old theaters have been revitalized by live performances of music, ballet, plays and lectures that augment film presentations. In Atlanta the mammoth Fox Theater is alive and well. So is the Ohio in Columbus, the Shea's in Chicago, the Tennessee in Knoxville and the Tivoli and Chattanooga. The restored Missouri Theater in St. Louis, now known as Powell Hall, is the home of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Its renovation won raves from New York Times architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable.

As the Michigan Theater turns fifty, we wish it a very happy birthday and best wishes for many happy returns.

It is not often that people celebrate the birthday of a building, but residents of the Ann Arbor area will be doing just that on Thursday evening September 21 at 8:00 p.m. when the Motor City Theatre Organ Society presents a

fiftieth anniversary birthday party for the Michigan Theater. The festivities will feature Walt Strony, a brilliant young organist from Chicago, who will play a solo recital on the Michigan Theater's Barton pipe organ and accompany a silent comedy. Also appearing on the program will be magician Daryl Hurst and the Livingston County Barbershop Chorus. To make the evening's atmosphere as authentic as possible, there will be a vintage Fox Movietone Newsreel, and arriving patrons will be shown to their seats by uniformed ushers.

When the Michigan Theater opened its doors on Thursday, January 5, 1928, the moviegoing habits of Americans were quite different from what they are today. There was no television, and radio networks had just begun. Most people went to the movies, and not just once every three months, but at least twice a week, instead of staying at home to fiddle with their vast assortment of electronic entertainment devices as they do today. To satisfy this hunger for movies, Hollywood production factories churned out almost five hundred feature films each year. Today that number is down to less than one hundred.

Back in 1928, almost every city had several theaters ranging in size from the

small neighborhood houses of a few hundred seats to grand "picture palaces" downtown with thousands of seats. In the largest cities the big movie theaters reached gargantuan proportions (5,000 seats sometimes) and were decorated in a lavish style that is hard to imagine in these leaner times.

Because all films were silent until the late 1920's, all movie theaters provided live musical accompaniments for the action on the screen. Small theaters would have a pianist, while the larger houses would have a sizeable orchestra which could be augmented or replaced by the pipe organ.

It was also customary for most large moving picture theaters to run a live variety show along with the film. Moviegoing in the 1920's was a veritable feast of live entertainment ranging from stand-up comics and trained dog acts to the most sophisticated precision dance teams and elaborate ballet presentations. The movie itself sometimes ended up being less important than what was happening on the stage.

With only 1,800 seats, the Michigan Theater was rather small by the standards of metropolitan theaters, but it strove mightily to match in facilities and attitude

the splendor of the larger movie theaters in Detroit, Chicago, and New York.

The Michigan Theater was to be the flagship of Ann Arbor's four other W.S. Butterfield theaters which included the *Arcade*, the *Wuerth*, the *Orpheum*, and the *Majestic*. The theater was to feature first-run films, newsreels, a resident orchestra, pipe organ, and a lengthy live variety show. To manage the new theater, the Butterfield company picked Gerry Hoag, a native of Kalamazoo who had been the manager of Ann Arbor's *Majestic* theater on Maynard Street for ten years. Hoag brought to the Michigan an experienced staff from the *Majestic* including Harold Baldwin as assistant manager, Lois Grandberg at the box office, Don Albert as Head Usher and Carl Weiderhold as orchestra leader. It was Weiderhold's job, along with organist Floyd Hofmann, to provide music for the films and stage shows which would play in the new house.

To insure that the theater would be adequate for the elaborate stage and film policy, the Butterfield company spared nothing in the way of physical appointments. The theater contained a large stage, an orchestra pit, a basement rehearsal hall, dressing rooms, a \$50,000

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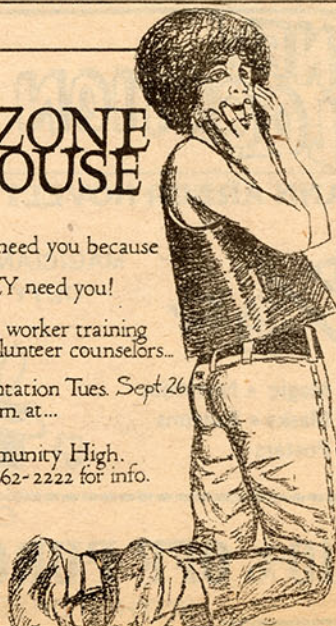
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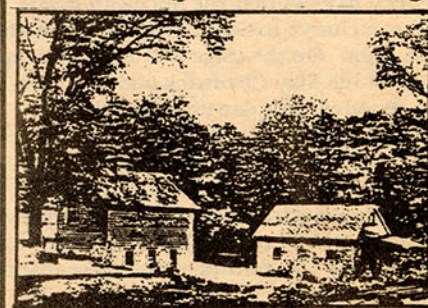
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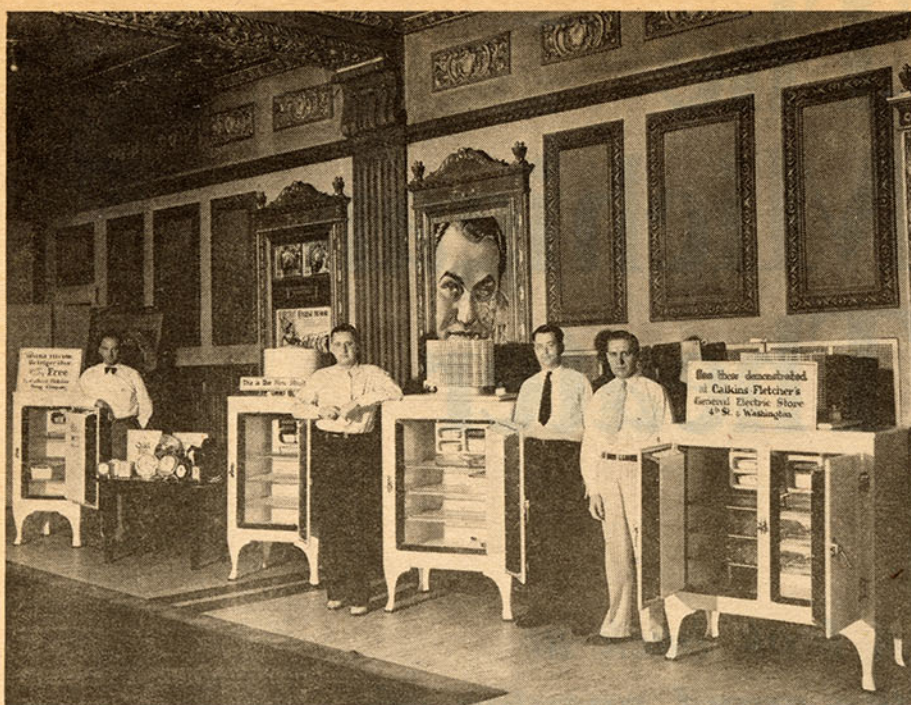
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pipe organ, the latest type of lighting board with dimmers, and the most advanced film and special effects projectors in the booth. To make sure that everything ran smoothly, there was a complete stage crew, electricians, projectionists, and a staff of twenty ushers. Architect Maurice H. Finkel created a pleasant Romanesque auditorium with good sight lines and acoustics and designed a spacious grand foyer and outer lobby to accommodate crowds comfortably.

Construction began on the Michigan Theater Building in the summer of 1927. In addition to the theater, the building would contain shops, offices, and a bowling alley in the basement. It was built on a 132 by 237 foot tract of land owned by Angelo Poulos. Although Poulos owned the building, the W.S. Butterfield Company was in charge of operating the theater, and it still does so today.

Long before the evening of January 5, 1928, special invitations had been sent to four hundred persons in film, education, industry, and government. These included representatives from major Hollywood companies, national exhibitors, executives from the Butterfield Company, and the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan. When the Michigan's doors opened at 6:45 p.m. that evening, there was a line two blocks long down Liberty Street. General admission tickets had been on sale for two days already and other Butterfield theaters in town had rearranged their schedules so that patrons might also be able to attend the opening program at the Michigan.

The feature film chosen for the Michigan Theater's opening week was *Hero for a Night*, starring Glen Tryon. Special arrangements had been made to delay the New York premiere of the film for several days so that the Michigan might have exclusive national booking for opening night. On the stage that first week appeared Ida May Chadwick and her "Dizzy Blondes" in a dance revue called "From Rags to Riches." The Michigan Theater orchestra played a special overture written for the occasion by the father of orchestra leader Carl Weiderhold, and organist Floyd Hofmann demonstrated the capabilities of the three-manual, thirteen-rank Barton pipe organ. It was a gala occasion for Ann Arbor's moviegoing public, and of a kind which would never be seen again.

By the time the Michigan Theater opened, changes had already begun in the motion picture industry which would radically alter the theater's policy of films and live presentations within a very short

time. In the fall of 1927, Warner Brothers released a film entitled *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson. Its musical accompaniment was recorded on discs, and in a few places Jolson improvised a bit of monologue between songs. Immediately the rush to talking films was on, and theaters across the country soon dismissed their orchestras, abandoned live variety acts, and installed turntables, amplifiers, and speakers.

On Christmas Day of 1927, *The Jazz Singer* premiered at the Madison Theater in Detroit, and soon theaters in that city began to abandon live shows as they converted to prerecorded sound. The Michigan Theater's last regularly scheduled combination show of live acts and film was in June of 1929. After that, talking films were shown exclusively, and the Michigan, like so many other theaters, disbanded its orchestra and closed its dressing rooms and rehearsal hall. Manager Gerry Hoag, now retired, remembers that there were occasional stage shows over the years and that Paul Tomkins was engaged as staff organist until 1945; but for the most part the Michigan's days of live productions ended with the coming of talking films to Ann Arbor.

Like most downtown theaters across America, the Michigan continued comfortably as a first-run movie house until the late 1940's. Then television appeared and, almost simultaneously, Hollywood production companies were forced by the Federal Government to divest themselves of their theaters. Cast adrift from the financial backing of Hollywood and faced with the competition of television, many downtown theaters were forced to close. Hundreds of them were eventually torn down.

Fortunately the Michigan survived that crisis because it was close to a vital campus area which had plenty of students and was relatively safe at night. Throughout the 1950's the Michigan continued to hold its own. It even survived a 1950's "renovation" which stripped it of many of its fine decorations and painted over colorful details. There were even a few stage shows and some attempts to restore the pipe organ to playing condition.

In the 1970's, however, things began to get more difficult for the Michigan and other remaining downtown movie theaters in American cities. Film audiences became splintered into a wide variety of small groups. Family pictures with an appeal broad enough to fill a theater of the Michigan's size all but disappeared. Small theaters in shopping centers sprang up, and new rules for bidding on and acquiring films began to favor small houses

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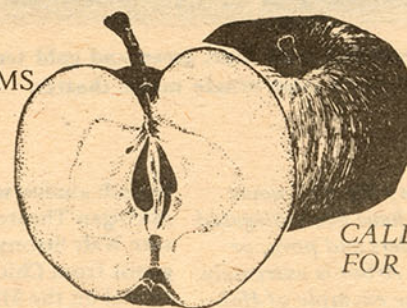
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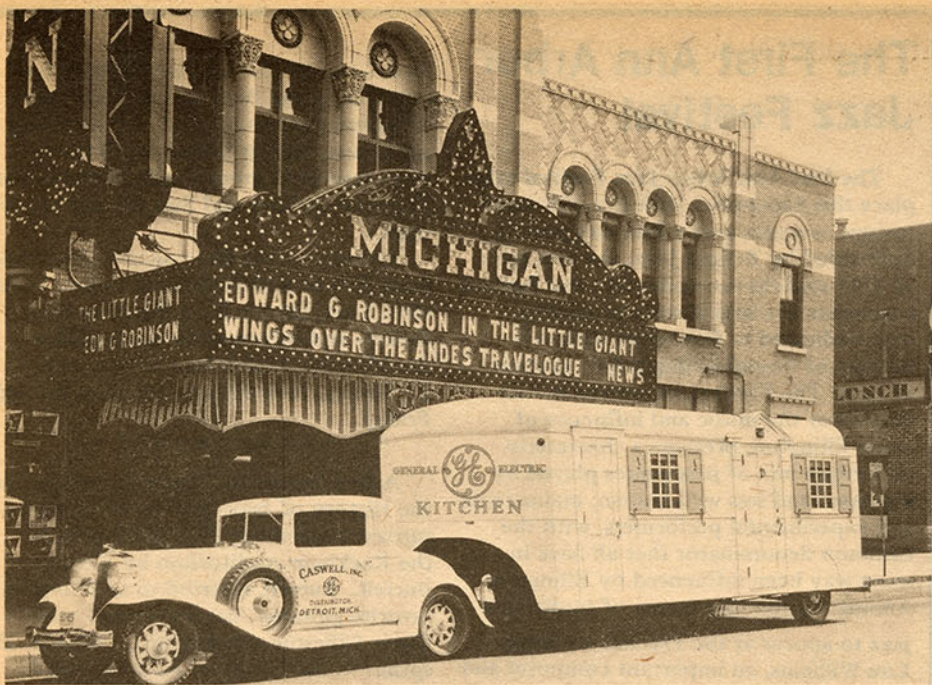


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Ironically, just as attendance began to drop at the Michigan, citizens of Ann Arbor became more aware than ever of the theater's historical significance. In 1973 the building was included in a survey of historically important buildings conducted by the Ann Arbor Sesquicentennial Commission, and in December, 1974, an historical marker was placed near the theater's entrance. In 1972, restoration work on the pipe organ was completed and the instrument was placed into regular use as a Friday and Saturday night intermission feature. In 1976 and 1977, benefit shows using the stage were given for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. In addition, there have been a number of rock

concerts and organ recitals held in the theater recently.

Unlike many cities, Ann Arbor is fortunate to have a functioning, well-equipped downtown movie theater with stage facilities and a large seating capacity. For fifty years, the Michigan Theater has served Ann Arbor well. Its facilities (built for the needs of another era) are flexible enough to continue to serve the entertainment needs of Ann Arbor for another fifty years. As an advertisement in the *Ann Arbor News* in January, 1928 said:

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Peter Yates

Henry Aldridge at the restored Barton Theater Organ.

out by residents to visitors as a prized possession of the community. . . . The Michigan will be that kind of theatre.

Henry Aldridge, member of the Motor City Theater Organ Society and one of

four staff organists at the Michigan Theater, has researched the history of the Michigan Theater. He teaches telecommunications at Eastern Michigan University. The Barton Theater Organ at The Michigan Theater can be heard on Friday, Saturday and Monday evenings' intermission and at the organ club's monthly second Sunday open house from 10 a.m. to noon.

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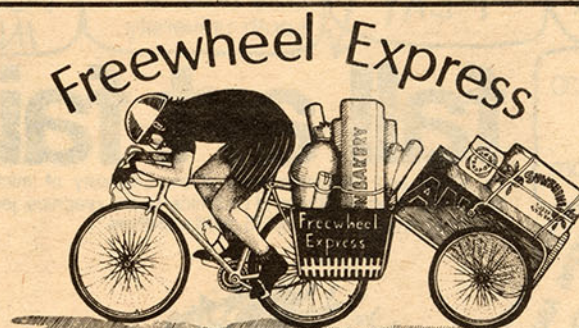
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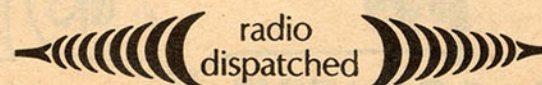
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The recently-organized Chamber Orchestra Society consists of sixteen professional wind and string musicians under the direction of Carl Daehler. Tickets are \$8.50 for dessert concerts (\$34 for the series of five), \$7.50 for tea concerts (\$30 for the series), and \$16.50 for the five-course dinner-concert. For further



Stanley M. Livingston

information contact the Chamber Orchestra Society, 903 East Huron, Ann Arbor 48104, or call 996-0066.

The First Ann Arbor Jazz Festival

The first Ann Arbor Jazz Festival takes place this September with five Hill Auditorium concerts over a four-day period. Sponsored by Eclipse Jazz, the non-profit U-M student-run collective, the Festival represents the largest-scale project to date dedicated to furthering Eclipse's mission of reestablishing public support of jazz. The Festival, organized in celebration of the music and influence of Duke Ellington, presents a characteristic Eclipse mix of jazz genres played by big-name and less well-known, mainstream and experimental performers, with the common denominator that all have in some way been influenced by Ellington. Among the familiar names of traditional jazz to appear at the Festival are Mary Lou Williams, an important composer and pianist for fifty years; tenor saxophonist

Stan Getz; Dexter Gordon; Kenny Burrell; and, in the final concert, the Duke Ellington Orchestra under the direction of his son, Mercer Ellington. Newer, more free-form groups include the Chico Freeman Quintet and Sun Ra and his Arkestra.

Tickets for the five-concert series range from \$20 to \$30; individual tickets (sold after Sept. 12) are from \$4.50 to 6.50. Tickets and information are available at the Michigan Union Box Office, open 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A free lecture on "Duke Ellington and the History of Jazz" will be given on Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Rackham Auditorium by Kenny Burrell. Burrell, referred to as Ellington's favorite guitarist, has performed with Dizzy Gillespie and Benny Goodman. He speaks in his role as an authority on Ellington.

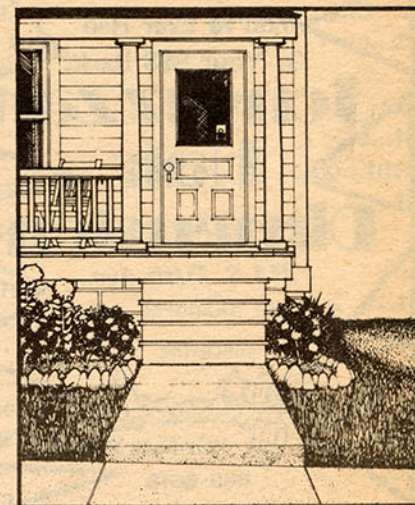
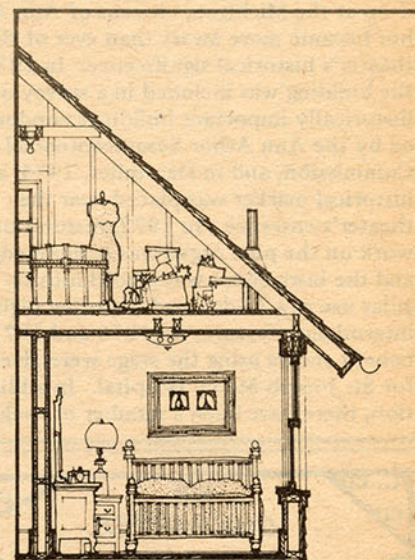
Old West Side Homes Tour

Homes tours often depend for their success on the public's voyeuristic impulse to peek inside and inspect the homes of the very wealthy. But the Old West Side Homes Tour is on a different order altogether. The houses shown were originally quite ordinary—the Old West Side's pleasant old-fashioned ordinariness is the source of its charm, in fact.

Especially in recent years, homes for the tour have been chosen not because they're architectural gems or masterpieces of elegant interior decoration but because their owners have put a lot of thought and energy into making the most of their personal environment. "We try to get as big a variety in ages and treatments of homes as possible," says Dave Evans, this year's tour chairman.

This year's tour homes range from the 1850's to 1942 and reflect approaches from a professional interior decorator's design for her own home to do-it-yourselfers who have made major interior changes to give their small homes a more spacious feeling to eclectic collectors of nice old things.

This year the homes tour is on Sunday September 17, from 12 to 5 p.m. It is the Old West Side Association's major publicity event and fund raiser. Tickets for the tour cost \$3.00 (\$2.50 in advance at numerous local stores), and \$2.00 for senior citizens). They may be purchased on tour day at the Reorganized Church of Latter-Day Saints at Fourth Street and Jefferson, where child care, and refreshments will also be available. A shuttle bus can take tour-goers from house to house.



GAME PLAN:

OPENING PLAY

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10 am to 6 pm
sunday, oct. 1
12 noon to 6 pm

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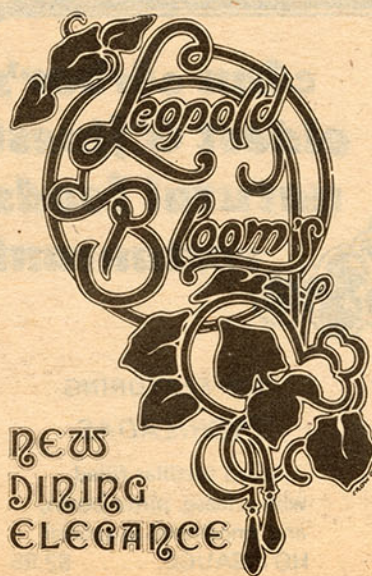
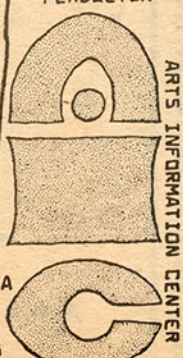
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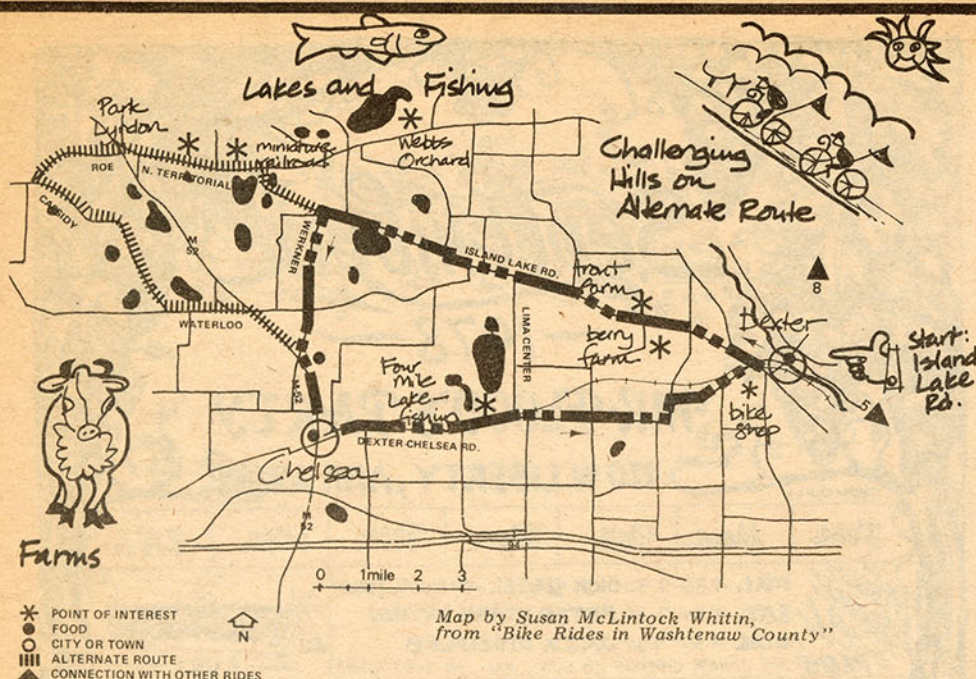


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Bicycle Trips For Fall

Cider mills and cooler weather make September and October perfect months for bicycling in Washtenaw County. *Bike Rides in Washtenaw County* is an extremely helpful portfolio of maps for ten suggested city and county bicycle rides, plus a general county map. It was published jointly last year by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and UATS, (the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Urban Area Transportation Study). It's still available, free of charge, at the County Building information desk and at the County Parks Office at the County Service Center, 4133 Washtenaw just east of US-23.

The guide includes safety tips, locations of bike shops, parks and other points of interest, and historical notes on Saline, Manchester, Chelsea and Dexter. The trips, which vary from 8 to 50 miles in length, are suitable for adults in good physical condition. Tour notes for each trip include pertinent information about topography and traffic conditions.

Several of the bike trips go by orchards and cider mills. Probably the most popular bike ride in the county is along the scenic winding Huron River Drive to Dexter, past Delhi Mills Metropark, the Huron Farms Orchard and Cider Mill on Zeeb Road, and the Wagner Cider Mill in Dexter, a round trip of 21 miles from Ann Arbor. Flat terrain around Saline and Milan makes the trip to Saline Orchards and Wiard's Orchards easy. For well-conditioned cyclists, the 49-mile trip to Manchester also takes in the picturesque old mill at Sharon Hollow, near the source of the River Raisin, and goes near the Alber Orchard and Cider Mill on Bethel Church Road.

The most challenging route of all is from Dexter out Island Lake Road to Park Lyndon on North Territorial Road, and back via Chelsea. It may well be the most interesting for fall foliage and nature observation. The topography consists of small glacial hills and depressions,

many of which are filled with lakes and swamps. Through these miniature mountains on North Territorial west of Island Lake Road winds a miniature railroad, thanks to rail fan Don Drew, who operates his Lake Central and Lyndon on Sunday and holiday afternoons for 50¢ a ride.

Just west down the road is Park Lyndon, a wilderness park run by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The 205-acre park is rich in natural features: forested steep terrain leading down to a small lake, open grasslands, and a spongy bog area, the habitat of native orchids and insect-eating plants (sundews and pitcher plants).

Until very recently Park Lyndon suffered from a lack of peripheral parking, interior trails, and simple picnic facilities. Now a federal Economic Development Administration grant to the county has remedied this situation. There's a new picnic shelter overlooking the lake, on the park's south side, a nature cabin reconstructed on the foundation of an old farmstead, and a self-guided nature trail that begins at the parking lot. The trail is due for completion around October 1.

The public is invited to the dedication and a tour of the new improvements at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24. Pioneer park proponent Genevieve Gillette will speak about the effort involved in rallying support to acquire the park. Refreshments will be served, and visitors can go on a nature walk led by the park naturalist.

Other free guided nature programs will be offered at Park Lyndon this September. The bird-watching program will be held on two Sundays, September 10 and 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. Sandhill cranes, blue herons and owls are among the birds which frequent the park. Interpretive nature walks focussing on plant and animal life in different habitats in the park will be held on Saturday, September 9 and 16, also from 9 to 11 a.m. If you want to go, call the county parks office at 994-2575 to reserve a place.

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Above Ann Arbor: The Milky Way

September is the best month of the year to see the Milky Way. It passes overhead as the sky gets fully dark (end of astronomical twilight, around 9 p.m. late in the month) and its brightest part is visible then only at this time of year. Last issue's object, the asteroid Vesta, was hard to find, a true challenge: by contrast, the Milky Way is easy. You do need a clear, moonless country sky, though.

You literally can't miss the Milky Way—if you have a good sky. In late September at the end of twilight (9:10 p.m. Sept. 20, moving back to 8:50 on the 30th) it appears as a band of light stretching right across the sky, NE horizon through overhead to SW horizon. In a good sky, it's so bright that I've seen it reflected in the waters of Union Lake at Millville, New Jersey (lakes in Michigan should be able to do the same); even to the naked eye it shows a wealth of detail, and in binoculars it's a jeweled fairyland of star clusters, nebulae (clouds of glowing gas appearing as small bright glows), and single stars beyond counting.

That's if you have a good sky. Ann Arbor doesn't, ever—too much light pollution (city lights illuminating the air and drowning out the whole Universe except the few dozen to few hundred brightest stars). You need an observing site in the country at least five miles from Ann Arbor's lights, and with no lights of its own to shine in your eyes. (Get there 20 minutes early so your eyes can adapt to the darkness, too!) Moonlight drowns out the Milky Way, so forget Sept. 8-19, when the Moon is too bright (at least at the end of twilight); forget also any hazy, humid, Summer-like day, because haze either hides the Milky Way or, worse, dims it to unimpressiveness. Best nights are just after passage of a cold front.

The Milky Way is simply the stars of our galaxy, seen by the millions—there are so many, and each one is individually so far away (hence so faint), that we don't see them individually as dots of light; we see only their combined light as a band across the sky. (The 3000 or so stars that we do see, at any given time, as individual dots of light are unusually close as stars go; the average one is only

New Schedule Of U-M Astronomy Events

You and your family can see Lunar craters and distant star clusters through powerful telescopes, gaze in awe at the eight-stories-wide radio telescope that first picked up radio emissions from Mercury and Uranus, or see films and lectures on subjects like the current Voyager missions to Jupiter, Saturn, and beyond. It's all free from the University of Michigan, and Jim Loudon has prepared a list of events for Fall and Winter. For your free copy of edition 22 of the U-M Astronomy Schedule, just send a stamped, addressed envelope to Current Astronomy Schedule, U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. To be placed on the mailing list for the next edition (Spring, 1979) as well, include a second stamped, addressed envelope marked "ASTRONOMY SCHEDULE 23" in the lower left corner.



The Constellation Cassiopeia, according to the description of Ptolemy.

2,000 trillion miles away. Most stars are much farther than that.) Our galaxy is a collection of at least 200 billion stars (including the Solar System's own star, the Sun); there are billions of other galaxies known, ranging from 10 billion to over a trillion stars apiece, and virtually every star in the Universe belongs to one galaxy or another. (Only one galaxy other than our own is visible with the unaided eye; I'll tell you how to find it in the October Observer.)

Our galaxy is around 600,000 trillion miles in diameter but only about a tenth of that in thickness. In other words, it's shaped rather like a very thick pancake—a flat cylinder not as fat as a tuna can. (Actually, it bulges in the center, so it's shaped more like a lens than a flat cylinder, but the flat-cylinder approximation will do for the present article.)

To understand why we see the Milky Way as a band of light across the sky, imagine that our galaxy is a real pancake, a blueberry pancake, with everything transparent except the blueberries and those glowing brightly—they represent the individual stars. A germ perched on one of the blueberries will see most of the others in a ring around him; very few are directly above or below his particular berry. Another analogy is the way you see the lights of a city, viewed from a building within it, only in a ring defined by the horizontal (i.e. the plane of the ground, where the buildings are located); you don't see lights over your head or beneath your feet. The principle in either case is that if you're inside a flat cylinder of glowing objects, you see them mostly in a ring around you, defined by the central plane of the cylinder, with very few in the perpendicular directions.

The outline of the Milky Way is irregular, and there's one extensive stretch where the band seems to split in two, like a highway divided by a median strip. These irregularities aren't places where no stars exist; they're great clouds of dust in space, blocking our view of billions of stars that lie beyond. Interstellar dust (mostly grains around 1/25,000 inch across, made of rocklike substances, carbon, ice, frozen gases, and/or iron-nickel alloys) severely limits how far we can see into the Milky Way. For example, the Milky Way's brightest part is the direction toward the center of our galaxy, as you might expect; but the dust prevents our seeing more than a tenth of the distance toward the actual center. Astronomer George Abell says that, if our galaxy contained no dust, you could read at night by the light of the Milky Way.

But don't complain about the dust: you're made of it. The Universe, when it originally formed, perhaps 20 billion years ago, was made entirely of the two light gases hydrogen and helium. All the heavier atoms—oxygen, iron, aluminum, gold, uranium, and the elements living things are made of, such as carbon—were formed later, inside certain unusual stars, which then exploded at the ends of their lives—thereby spreading these heavy atoms throughout their particular galaxies.

The Earth, which formed (along with the Sun and the rest of the Solar System) 4.6 billion years ago, is made largely of these star-created heavier atoms. So are you. Appreciate yourself: you are literally made of stardust—the same materials you can see tonight, silhouetted against the star clouds of the Milky Way.

—Jim Loudon

September

1978

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| FRIDAY 22, 8:00 PM | <p>JOHNNY GRIFFIN DEXTER GORDON FREDDY HUBBARD</p> | <p>SATURDAY 23, 8:00 PM</p> <p>STANLEY TURRENTINE KENNY BURRELL SUN RA</p> |
| SUNDAY 24, 1:00 PM | <p>CHICO FREEMAN II-V-I ORCHESTRA HUBERT LAWS</p> | <p>SUNDAY 24, 8:00 PM</p> <p>MOSE ALLISON ART BLAKEY & THE JAZZ MESSENGERS DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA w/ MERCER ELLINGTON</p> |

TICKET INFO

Reserved seating will be available as a series for \$30, \$25 and \$20, and individually for \$6.50, \$5.50 and \$4.50. Festival series tickets are available over the counter at Hudson's and the Michigan Union Box Office. Individual concert tickets will be available beginning Sept. 12 at the Michigan Union Box office and at all other outlets Sept. 14. Mail orders for individual concerts will not be filled until Sept. 13.

MAIL ORDERS: Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send certified check or money order (sorry, no personal checks) to:

Eclipse Jazz Festival

2nd floor, Michigan Union Ann Arbor, Mi. 48109

For more info: 763-1453



James McNeill Whistler, "The Doorway, Venice"

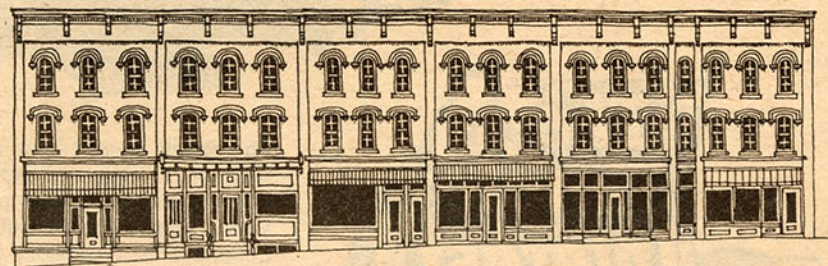
Two Retrospectives: Whistler, Slusser

As artists mature and age, they often become more involved with abstract problems and less engaged in depicting naturalistic objects. Two current retrospective shows in Ann Arbor this month provide interesting examples of this phenomenon. "Whistler: the Later Years" is at the U-M Museum of Art through October 8. It features mostly small works done by the colorful and controversial artist during and after an important stay in Venice in 1879-80.

According to John Holmes and Nesta Spink, curators of the exhibit, "in contrast to the sentimental, anecdotal art of this Victorian England, Whistler's work became more and more abstract and reductive. Striving for harmony of line, form and color, he aimed to eliminate everything but the essential, to produce art independent of all claptrap."

Ann Arbor's own Jean Paul Slusser is still active as a watercolorist as he nears 92. His works from the 1920's to today are displayed at the Ann Arbor Art Association gallery at 117 W. Liberty through September. Gallery hours are 10-5, Monday through Saturday.

"Watercolor is my favorite medium," Slusser told us. "I've exhibited watercolors since 1928. For years my paintings were very descriptive landscapes of places I'd been. As I got older, what I paint are landscapes of the mind—interior landscapes—expressionistic and semi-abstract. I use a lot of red and black on white paper. Black is a lovely color. Orientals know that very well. I never cared much for it until ten or twelve years ago, when I found black makes everything else sing."



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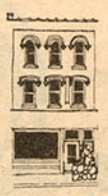
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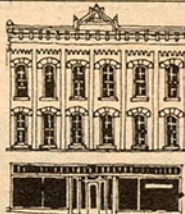
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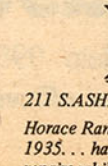
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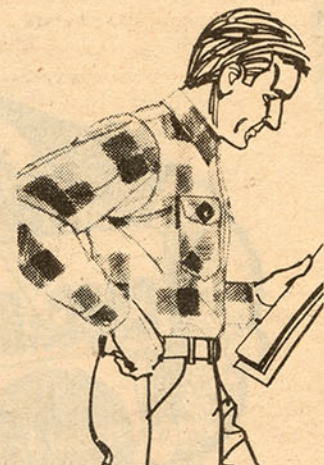
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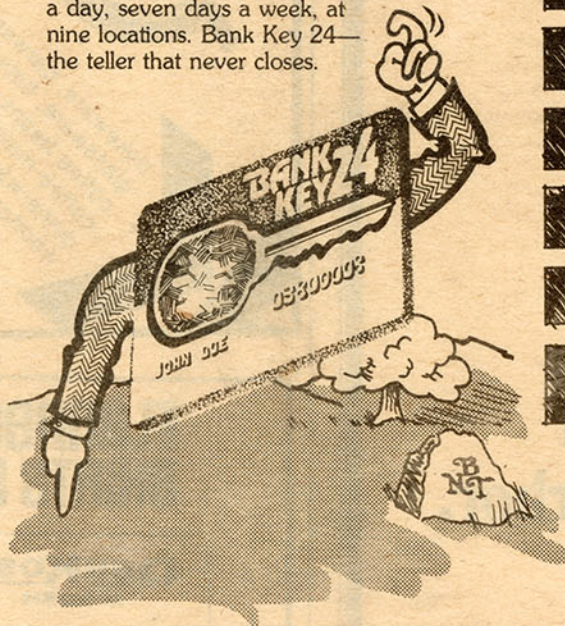
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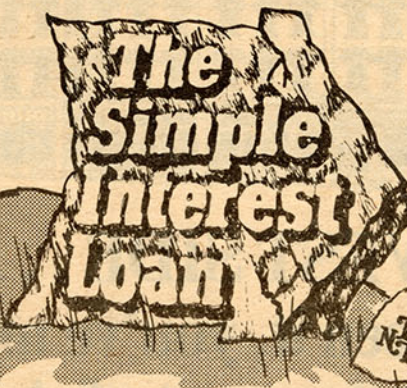
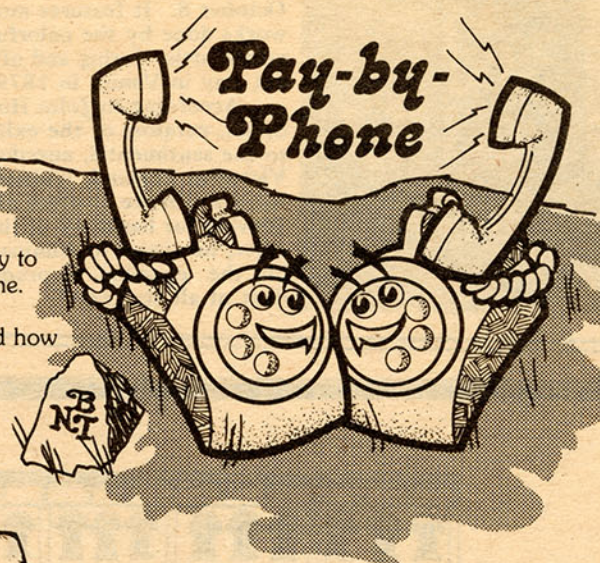
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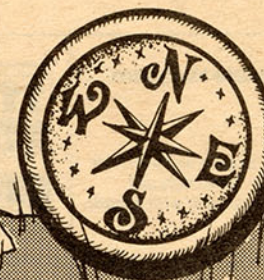


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